

Make a VOCabulator



Vocabulary is really important. If we recognise and know lots of words, reading will be easier and more enjoyable, we'll understand school subjects better, we will become better communicators, and we will be able to have interesting conversations with our family and friends.

We don't just learn new words in school. It's important that we keep on learning new words at home. Every day we're learning new words, from books we're reading, from articles we read on our computers and tablets, from TV programmes, and from conversations with the people around us

It's good to stop and notice these new words and find out what they mean. This is how we expand our vocabulary. We can try to work out the new word for ourselves, (have a good guess), we could ask our parents or other family members to tell us something about the word, or we could look it up in a dictionary.

Keep a list of all your new words, and what you've found out about them.

A good way to challenge yourself or your family about these new words is to make a VOCabulator...

You will need:

- An empty wide-necked plastic bottle
- A selection of small noisy things e.g. marbles, lego bricks, small toys, beads, pebbles, shells etc (lentils, rice pasta are good but Mum might not like you raiding the cupboards just now!)
- Some shiny or interesting things like foil sweet wrappers, sequins, scraps of fabric etc
- Write your words on pieces of card (both sides).
- Attach paperclips if you've got any, to help stop them sticking together
- Pop everything in the bottle and screw on the lid. (Fill half way or $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way up.)
- Take turns to shake up the bottle to reveal a word, then try to say what the word means or use it in a sentence
- Try making themed VOCAbulATORS e.g. Spring time or Superheroes



The original idea for vocabulators came from [Melissa Forney](#), but vocabulators can be adapted in lots of different ways. See [Pinterest](#) for more ideas or [Thinking and Talking](#) from the Authors of Word Aware.

Find more free ideas to support vocabulary [here](#).