

# Year 1 Vocabulary: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation to vocabulary can help you support your child's learning at home. The subject is broken down into manageable chunks, providing you with a simple guide to follow when exploring vocabulary together, either as part of homework or if you decide to give your child some extra support. Whether your child is only just beginning to build up their vocabulary or they want to explore new, more ambitious words, you will find a step that matches where your child is at as well as some ideas for where to go next.

Within **this area of the website**, you will find a selection of resources intended to help your child learn about each step of this guide. Each step also contains a keyword or phrase that you can use to search the Twinkl site for more resources and activities designed to support your child in achieving that stage. Simply type the keyword or phrase into the search bar and press enter to explore together.



We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. The contents of this resource are for general, informational purposes only. This guide is intended to offer parents general guidance on what subject areas tend to be covered in their child's year group and where they could support their children at home. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. There are some subject areas that we have intentionally not covered due to the nature of how they are taught or because a trained professional needs to teach these areas. We try to ensure that the information in our resources is correct but every school teaches the national curriculum in its own way. If you would like further guidance or are unsure in any way, we recommend that you speak to your child's teacher or another suitably qualified professional.

# What Does Vocabulary Mean?

## Vocabulary

The term 'vocabulary' means a collection of known words and phrases in a particular language - how many words does a person understand and use? A person's vocabulary usually develops as they get older.

As your child's confidence in reading and writing increases, they will begin to acquire new words through reading, listening to, discussing and sharing high quality stories and texts. In year 1, this will help them to build-up their oral vocabulary and confidence in word reading; knowing the meaning of more words increases children's understanding when they are reading them by themselves. Newly learnt vocabulary will also feed into your child's writing.

As well as using the resources in this category and the suggested keyword searches to help your child with vocabulary, a few ideas for games and activities to help your child learn how to build up and broaden their vocabulary, both in their spoken language and in their writing, are outlined below.

### Read, Read, Read!

Sharing books together is the most powerful way for children to learn about vocabulary, spelling, grammar and punctuation. Spot new words when you are reading together and discuss their meanings in order to continuously build-up your child's knowledge.

### Word of the Day

Choose a new or unusual word your child has never come across before. Write it on a piece of paper and make it the 'word of the day'. Discuss its meaning together. Can your child put it into a sentence orally before writing the sentence down?

### Be a Poet

Find a new word in your child's reading book that they've never come across before. Can they make an acrostic poem using the letters of the word (i.e. write the letters of the word vertically then make a poem using words starting with each letter)?

### Draw the Word

Find a new word and look up its definition in the dictionary. Can your child draw a picture to illustrate the new word?

## Step 1

### Reading New Words

In year 1, your child will continue to apply their knowledge of phonics to decode and read words in texts. Because young readers encounter unknown words much more often than experienced readers, encouraging your child to read aloud will allow you to discuss the meaning of new words with them and therefore develop their vocabulary. This pack of vocabulary resources is themed around traditional tales and can be a good way to help you introduce new words to your child.



### Writing New Words

At this stage, your child will be using words in written form to create sentences - groups of words which mean something, begin with a capital letter and end with a full stop, question mark or exclamation mark. You can use word mats to help your child write and spell high frequency and common exception words. Alternatively, pick words from the mats and ask your child to define what they mean.

## Step 2



## Step 3

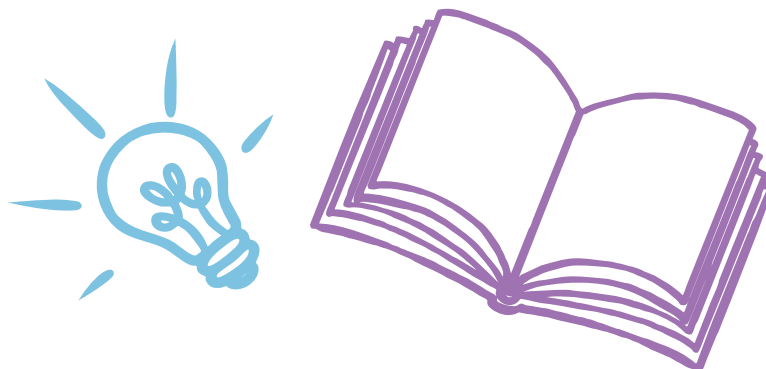
### Increasing Vocabulary

Your child will now collect together a wider variety of words and begin to broaden their basic vocabulary. They may experiment with using more ambitious words within simple sentences. These 'word of the day' word cards give you plenty of examples of words to use to boost your child's vocabulary.

### Synonyms

At this stage, your child will begin to recognise that different words can be used to describe the same thing. For example, they will recognise that when using adjectives to describe something as being big, they could also use the words 'huge' or 'large'. These are called synonyms. Discover and explore interesting vocabulary together with these cards to help develop their vocabulary further.

## Step 4



# Explore and Discover More

Twinkl Go! is a digital platform, hosting interactive content such as videos, games, audiobooks and more. Twinkl Go! enables digital content to be streamed to your computer or mobile device.



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Book Club

Twinkl Book Club is our book subscription service. Enjoy our original works of fiction in beautiful printed form, delivered to you each half-term and yours to keep!

Twinkl Boost is a range of intervention resources, created to support and lift learning with children at every level. These include our easy-to-use SATs and Phonics Screening resources.



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imagine

Imagine resources are designed to help your children to think creatively, question and imagine. Every week, a new topic consisting of five photos, each with related activities, is created.

Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire pupils from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.



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KIDS' TV

Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!