

Year 2 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 continuing to build up their vocabulary or they want to explore 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 However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date.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 listening to stories, reading books and discussing vocabulary and language at school and at home. Your child will then start to use any new words learned in their speech and writing.

In year 2, children are encouraged to read frequently so that they can continuously broaden their vocabulary. They may be asked to discuss and clarify the meanings of words and link new meanings to known vocabulary, such as telephone and telegram. At school, they will learn about different types of words such as nouns (naming words), adjectives (describing words) and adverbs (where, when or how the action is happening).

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

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. If you can, make links between the new words and others which may have the same root, for example real and reality.

Play Word Games

Traditional word games are fantastic ways to build up your child's vocabulary, allowing them to discuss the meaning and spelling of new words they encounter while playing.

Not Just ... But ...

Think of something to describe, such as the weather or feelings. Try to improve your original adjective each time you say a sentence, for example, 'It's not just cold outside, it's freezing.' Or, 'I'm not just feeling happy today, I'm ecstatic.'

Draw the Word

Pick a new word your child is learning and roll a dice. Have different commands for each different number rolled, for example:

1. write the word with their eyes closed;
2. write the word as fast as they can;
3. write the word in a pyramid shape;
4. write the word upside down;
5. write the word in rainbow colours;
6. write the word in their best handwriting.

Step 1

Reading New Words

In year 2, your child will continue to build up fluency in reading, applying their knowledge of phonics to decoding and reading words quickly and mostly accurately. They will discuss and clarify the meanings of new words, making links with known vocabulary as well as discussing their favourite words and phrases. Work your way through this PowerPoint with your child to help them improve their reading skills.



Writing New Words

At this stage, your child will be using the new words they've learnt while reading or listening to stories in their writing. In lessons, they will learn about different types of words such as nouns (naming words), adjectives (describing words) and adverbs (where, when or how the action is happening). This PowerPoint can help your child consolidate their learning about verbs.

Step 2



Step 3

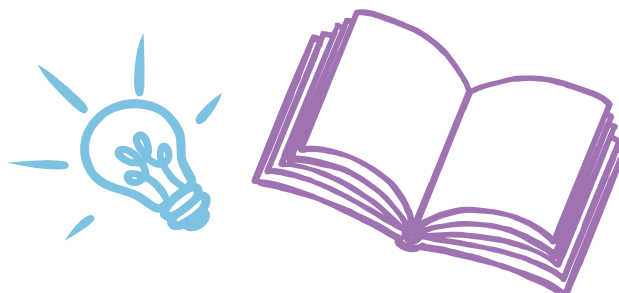
Improving Vocabulary

Your child will now start to experiment with more ambitious vocabulary - beginning to choose words for the effect they may have on the reader in their writing. These 'word of the day' cards have a selection of powerful words for your child to use as a reference when they're writing or as a discussion point when thinking about the meanings of different words.

Synonyms

At this stage, your child will be becoming more confident with the use and meaning of synonyms (words that mean the same thing as each other). For example, instead of using the word 'said' continuously, they can use different words such as screeched, whispered or yelled (according to the situation they are describing), thereby making their writing more interesting. Use this word mat to discover and explore more synonyms with your child and 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!