



The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
Independent Learning Centre  
Learning Strategies and Tools for Vocabulary Development



Strategies	Advice and Resources (mostly available in the CUHK library system)
1. Use vocabulary learning books	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✧ <i>How to increase your word power</i> (Reader's Digest)</li><li>✧ <i>Words you need</i> by B. Rudzka</li><li>✧ <i>More words you need</i> by B. Rudzka</li><li>✧ <i>Build your business vocabulary</i> by J. Flower</li><li>✧ <i>Word perfect: vocabulary for fluency</i> by M. Harrison</li><li>✧ <i>Word smart II: How to build a more educated vocabulary</i> by A. Robinson</li></ul>
2. Use vocabulary learning CD-ROMs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✧ Vocabulary development</li><li>✧ Word smart</li></ul>
3. Use the Web	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✧ Use the vocabulary web links on our ILC website <a href="http://www.ilc.cuhk.edu.hk/english/links/vocabulary.htm">www.ilc.cuhk.edu.hk/english/links/vocabulary.htm</a></li><li>✧ Visit websites which recommend vocabulary building strategies and which provide vocabulary development exercises.</li></ul>
4. Keep a vocabulary book	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✧ Develop a good reading habit.</li><li>✧ Develop the habit of keeping a book of new words learned. Whether you see it used in the newspaper, on TV, or by your teacher, you can note it down quickly, with an example.</li></ul>
5. Use an online dictionary and thesaurus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✧ Meriam-Webster online <a href="http://www.m-w.com">www.m-w.com</a></li><li>✧ The Yahoo Dictionary (if you prefer bilingual definitions) <a href="http://hk.dictionary.yahoo.com">hk.dictionary.yahoo.com</a></li><li>✧ The Visual Thesaurus — provides an interactive environment for you to explore meaning of words in a visual way; contains over 145,000 English words and 115,000 meanings; has an intuitive interface that encourages self-exploration and self-discovery of semantic relationships between words. <a href="http://www.visualthesaurus.com">www.visualthesaurus.com</a></li></ul>
6. Use other Web-based learning tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✧ Subscribe to vocabulary learning sites, e.g. <a href="http://www.vocabvitamins.com">www.vocabvitamins.com</a> so that you will be sent a word a day, with explanation, etymological information and sample sentences in an e-mail.</li></ul>

<p><b>7. Read newspapers and magazines</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✧ Pick from the newspapers and magazines in the ILC and on the second floor of the Wu Chung library. <a href="http://www.ilc.cuhk.edu.hk/english/resource/magazines.htm">www.ilc.cuhk.edu.hk/english/resource/magazines.htm</a> .</li> <li>✧ For help on making the most of newspapers, read or watch: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✧ <a href="#">Exploring newspapers</a> by D. J. Walker</li> <li>✧ <a href="#">Inside the stories</a> [videorecording]</li> </ul> </li> <li>✧ For useful advice on reading newspapers and lots of comprehension questions see the Bangkok Post's site designed for students: <a href="http://www.bangkokpost.net/education/index.htm">www.bangkokpost.net/education/index.htm</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>8. Play word games</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✧ Play word games on the Web, on the computer, and/or on the PDA. Free word games like <i>BookWorm</i> have both online, desktop and PDA versions available.</li> <li>✧ The "Learning Vocabulary Can be Fun" site offers a variety of sophisticated Flash-based word games to challenge your vocabulary: <a href="http://www.vocabulary.co.il">www.vocabulary.co.il</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>9. Actively take part in a Vocabulary forum</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✧ Take part in a forum like the <a href="#">ILC Grammar and Vocabulary Forum</a>. Post questions you have about vocabulary learning and exchange ideas with forum members.</li> </ul>
<p><b>10. Visit the Language Counsellors</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✧ Come with specific questions to the Language Counsellor if you are not sure which resources to use, how to find the resources, or how best to use them. Check times of daily sessions on <a href="http://www.ilc.cuhk.edu.hk/english/lang_consulting.htm">www.ilc.cuhk.edu.hk/english/lang_consulting.htm</a> .</li> </ul>
<p><b>11. Attend relevant ILC workshops</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✧ <i>Vocabulary Building, Word Building Through Games, Working with Verb Collocations</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>12. Take ELTU courses</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✧ Check relevant courses on <a href="http://www.cuhk.edu.hk">www.cuhk.edu.hk</a>, e.g. <a href="#">ELT1109</a>.</li> </ul>