How to learn vocabulary
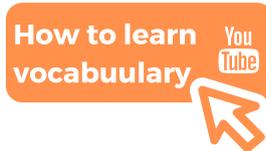
This is based on Scott Thornbury's "V is for Vocabulary Teaching" article which you can find by clicking here

Before you start, watch the YouTube video which explains how to use this PDF.

How to learn vocabuulary ▶ YouTube

Stage 1- Cognitive Depth

Choose 5-10 words that you want to learn.
Now answer these 5 questions about the words you have chosen.

1. Which of these words has the most syllables?
2. Can you think of a word that rhymes with each word?
3. Which part of speech are these words (e.g. noun, adjective, verb...)?
4. Can you think of collocations for these words?
5. Can you think of a synonym for each word?

Stage 2- Retrieval

Don't look at your words. Now, write them on a piece of paper and see if you have spelled them correctly.

Stage 3- Personise

Now, do these 3 tasks.

1. Think of an image for each word.
2. Think about where you learned each word or why you decided to learn each word.
3. Think about any personal stories or experiences connected to each word.

Stage 4- Contextualise

Write a sentence using each of these words.

Stage 5- Review

Revise the words by translating them, reading the sentences from stage 4 or even repeating this 5-stage process. This should be done within 24 hours of learning them and then at spaced out intervals. For example:

Day 1
Day 3
Day 6
Day 12
Day 24
Day 48
Day 92

"Words have a good chance of being remembered if they have been encountered at least seven times over spaced intervals"
- Thornbury "How to Teach Vocabulary"