The Learning Centre

Language Skills
Improving Your Vocabulary

- Read, read, read!!! Exposing yourself to new words through reading is a great way to improve your vocabulary and to understand the context in which different words are used.

- If someone uses a word that you are not familiar with, ask the person, “What does that word mean?” or write the word down and look up the definition later.

- Make flash cards, tables or web diagrams to help you remember the definitions of words.

- Create a word family chart with all possible word forms.

- Use an online or paper dictionary in English. When learning a new word, check the spelling, part of speech, pronunciation, definition, synonyms, and antonyms of that word.

- Refer to vocabulary resources available in the OC library. The librarians can help you find these materials – just ask!

- Refer to online vocabulary resources, such as the Academic Word List or the Oxford 3000 (lists of the most useful academic vocabulary):
  http://www.victoria.ac.nz/lals/resources/academicwordlist/

- Review and use the new words as much as possible!