

Online Vocabulary Resources
[all active as of 1/2010]

Resources Students Can Use

Amby's Education Resources for Reading and Vocabulary

<http://amby.com/educate/reading.html>

Several interesting games for students

Ed.Helper.com

<http://www.edhelper.com/>

From the "Table of Contents," click on "Vocabulary." In addition to spelling and vocabulary lessons, you will find many ready-to-implement activities with Greek and Latin roots.

Explore English Words from Greek-Latin Origins

<http://www.wordexplorations.com/>

Lots of references and interesting resources. Students will enjoy "*Words for Our Modern Age: Especially English Words from Greek and Latin Sources.*"

Game Zone

<http://www.english-online.org.uk/games/gamezone2.htm>

A variety of games, some more related to grammar than vocabulary.

Learning Vocabulary Can Be Fun!

<http://www.vocabulary.co.il/>

For all age and "skill" levels. Students can play the "match game" and "hangman" or do crossword puzzles, word searches, and jumbles. All the activities are for one player.

The Lex Files

<http://www.lexfiles.com>

This site of Latin and Greek prefixes, suffixes, and root words includes lists of quotations, legal and terms, religious expressions, and various abbreviations from Latin and Greek.

The Problem Site

http://www.theproblemsite.com/word_games.asp

Provides multiple word games to assist in vocabulary development

Surfing the Net with Kids

<http://www.surfnetkids.com/games/>

Lots of free kids' games listed by type (e.g., crossword, jigsaw), topic (e.g., science, geography), or theme (e.g., sports, dress-up, holidays). The site also has an easy-to-use search tool.

Vocabulary Builders (Grades 3-5)

<http://www.manatee.k12.fl.us/sites/elementary/samoset/resources/rvocabindex.htm>

Full of electronic activities students can do themselves and practice sheets you can duplicate. Includes activities on prefixes, suffixes, antonyms, synonyms, homophones, multiple meanings, context – and more! Kids will enjoy the online student dictionary as well.

Vocabulary U.

<http://syndicate.com/>

Resources for vocabulary development include crossword puzzles, fill-in-the-blanks, definition match, and many others. Puzzles consist of various themes including academic, sports, arts, and holidays.

Vocabulary University

<http://www.vocabulary.com/>

Full of puzzles and other activities based on Greek and Latin roots. The puzzles change regularly, so students can visit the site frequently without getting bored!

Word Central

<http://www.wordcentral.com/>

Maintained by Merriam-Webster, this site has plenty of activities and information for students, as well as resources (including lesson plans) for teachers. You can even build your own dictionary.

Word Games and Puzzles

<http://mindfun.com/>

Calls itself the “web's best spot for online trivia games, word puzzles and quizzes!” Students will find word scrambles, webs, crossword puzzles – even Boggle. Lots of word trivia too!

Little Explorers English Picture Dictionary

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/Dictionary.html>

When they click on a letter of the alphabet, students will find dozens of words, each with a picture and definition. Best of all, this site also has picture dictionaries that go from English to Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, German, Swedish, Dutch, and Japanese! These dictionaries will captivate all your students and provide extra support to English language learners. (NOTE: Older students may enjoy working with some of the other electronic dictionaries and resources listed in the Teacher Resources section.)

Resources for Teachers

Websites for Word Roots/Word Lists

Building Vocabulary

<http://www.learner.org/jnorth/tm/tips/Tip0023.html#Families>

Sponsored by “Journey North,” this site has quick and easy classroom vocabulary activities.

Lists of Latin and Greek Roots

http://www.awrsd.org/oak/Library/greek_and_latin_root_words.htm

<http://www.factmonster.com/ipka/A0907017.html>

<http://academic.cuesta.edu/acasupp/as/506.htm>

Most Frequently Used Words Lists

<http://www.esldesk.com/esl-quizzes/frequently-used-english-words/words.htm>

Takes you, in increments of 300, to the 1,000 most frequently used words in English.

Simple Teaching Roots, Prefixes and Suffixes

<http://www.southampton.liunet.edu/academic/pau/course/webesl.htm>

Contains lists of the most commonly used root words, prefixes, and suffixes. Definitions and examples are given for each.

Word Focus

<http://www.wordfocus.com>

Has general information, including word histories. Also has quizzes and an extensive print bibliography.

Word Roots and Prefixes

<http://www.virtualsalt.com/roots.htm>

Has lists of roots and words that come from them.

Websites to Make Your Own Word Games

Discovery School's Word Search Puzzlemaker

<http://puzzlemaker.school.discovery.com/WordSearchSetupForm.html>

A wordsearch generator that gives options for letter use and word type.

FunBrain Word Turtle

<http://www.funbrain.com/detect/>

You or your students enter a list of words that "Fun Brain" hides in a puzzle. Students can choose skill level and play alone or with a friend. Also has puzzles based on some children's literature.

Instant Online Crossword Puzzlemaker

<http://www.varietygames.com/CW/>

Make your own crossword puzzle in a flash and then print for your students to enjoy. You can make the puzzles simple or complicated, so this site is good for teachers working at all levels.

Superkids Wordsearch Puzzle

<http://www.superkids.com/aweb/tools/words/search/>

Make your own printable hidden word puzzles using the Puzzle Creator.

Word Search

<http://www.armoredpenguin.com/wordsearch/>

You can use the "generator" to create your own word jumbles and puzzles.

Dictionaries and Reference

Allwords.com

<http://www.allwords.com/>

The online dictionary does a multilingual search that ELL students will find very useful. "Links for word lovers" will take you to all kinds of resources for information (dictionaries, thesaurus, etymologies) and wordplay (puns, rhymes, songs, quotations).

AskOxford.com

<http://www.askoxford.com/>

Online dictionary that includes word games and other support materials for spelling, grammar, etymology and foreign phrases, plus an "Ask the Experts" link where you can find answers to frequently asked questions about language.

A.Word.A.Day

<http://www.wordsmith.org/awad/>

Have a new word come straight into your email every day! Also provides a vocabulary word, its definition, pronunciation information with audio clip, etymology, usage example, and quotation.

Behind the Name

<http://www.behindthename.com/>

Research the meaning and origin of names. This is a good place to begin word histories by having students find their own name's meaning.

The Big List

<http://www.wordorigins.org/>

Explains the origin of over 400 familiar words and phrases that are "interesting or because some bit of folklore, sometimes true and sometimes false, is associated with the origin."

Fun with Words

<http://www.fun-with-words.com/etymology.html>

This etymological resource provides histories of common words and idioms.

Merriam-Webster Online

<http://www.m-w.com/>

This site has an extensive and easy-to-use online dictionary and thesaurus that even provides audio pronunciations. Students will enjoy free word games and can sign up for Word-of-the-Day.

One Look Dictionary Search

<http://www.onelook.com/>

Type in a word and let this site look it up in several dictionaries! It also has a “Reverse Dictionary”: You type in a description of the concept and it finds words and phrases that match it.

Online Etymology Dictionary

<http://www.wordexplorations.com/>

Type in a word – any word – and this dictionary will tell you its history.

Thesaurus.com

<http://thesaurus.reference.com/>

Type in a word and quickly find synonyms and antonyms. Also has a dictionary, an encyclopedia, and a word-of-the-day in English and Spanish.

Lesson Plans

Brain Pop

<http://www.brainpop.com/english/>

Free access to activities about synonyms, antonyms, and homonyms.

Ohio Resource Center for Math, Science, and Reading

<http://ohiorc.org/for/ela/Default.aspx>

This address takes you to the English/Language Arts section, where you can find hundreds of vocabulary lessons suitable for students of all ages.

ReadWriteThink

<http://readwritethink.org>

This site, cosponsored by IRA and NCTE, contains lesson plans about all aspects of the language arts for all grade levels. To find vocabulary plans, select “Learning About Language” and then “Vocabulary.” You can also narrow your search by selecting a grade-level band.

Thinkfinity

<http://thinkfinity.org/home.aspx>

Has a repository of over 800 vocabulary resources, which can be searched by content area, grade level, or resource type (e.g., lesson plan, assessment).

The Vocabulary Website

http://wps.ablongman.com/long_licklider_vocabulary_1/

Offers several test-like exercises about a variety of vocabulary topics. Exercises are computer-graded.

For English Language Learners

Allwords.com

<http://www.allwords.com/>

The online dictionary does a multilingual search that ELL students will find very useful. “Links for word lovers” will take you to all kinds of resources for information (dictionaries, thesaurus, etymologies) and wordplay (puns, rhymes, songs, quotations).

Dave’s ESL Café

<http://www.eslcafe.com/>

Lots of resources for teachers and students

English Club

<http://www.englishclub.com/esl-games/matching.htm>

Intended for ESL students, the website focuses on matching synonyms and antonyms, but includes general knowledge matching games as well. Note: matching games feature words in isolation.

English Grammar Online

<http://www.ego4u.com/>

This website provides rules of grammar, vocabulary exercises, and writing rules. Although intended for ESL students, benefits can be gained by non-ESL students as well.

ESL Gold

<http://www.eslgold.com/vocabulary/links.html>

A variety of "highly recommended" vocabulary links.

"everything ESL.net"

http://www.everythingsl.net/in-services/elementary_sites_ells_71638.php

Links to dozens of sites (identified according to grade levels) with activities for ELLs.

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When they click on a letter of the alphabet, students will find dozens of words, each with a picture and definition. Best of all, this site also has picture dictionaries that go from English to Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, German, Swedish, Dutch, and Japanese! These dictionaries will captivate all your students and provide extra support to English language learners. (NOTE: Older students may enjoy working with some of the other electronic dictionaries and resources listed in the Teacher Resources section.)

Manythings.org

<http://www.manythings.org/lulu/>

Includes English vocabulary games with pictures (word-to-picture / picture-to-word). The images and words are for beginning students. The topics include animals, transportation, food & drink, clothing, and many others.

Total ESL

http://www.totalesl.com/resource_detail.php?id=42&subject=ESL/EFL

From the homepage click on resources (near top right), then scroll down to different resources. Resources include ESL/EFL, language arts, literature, and online games. Most resources are sorted by grade level.

Further Professional Reading

"A Focus on Vocabulary"

http://www.prel.org/products/re_ES0419.htm

From Pacific Resources for Education and Learning and written by Lehr, Osborn, and Hiebert, this is research overview has in-depth information in a reader-friendly format. The 44-page booklet could be used for professional development or even shared with parents.

"Getting to the Root of Word Study: Teaching Latin and Greek Word Roots in Elementary and Middle Grades"

<http://www.reading.org/Publish.aspx?page=/publications/bbv/books/bk698/toc.html&mode=redirect>

By Nancy Padak, Evangeline Newton, Tim Rasinski, and Rick Newton. From *What Research Has to Say about Vocabulary Instruction*, edited by Alan Farstrup and S. Jay Samuels (International Reading Association, 2008).

Just Read Now

<http://www.justreadnow.com/strategies/vocabulary.htm>

Provides different instructional approaches, such as concept mapping, Frayer model, and contextual redefinition.

“A Little Latin...and a Lot of English”

<http://ohiorc.org/adlit/InPerspective/Issue/2005-06/Article/Feature.aspx>

This article, written by Newton and Newton, offers guidelines and resources for teaching the “classic vocabulary” approach woven through a happy school memory of “Roots Day.”

“Making and Writing Words”

<http://www.readingonline.org/>

Tim Rasinski’s popular word study activity is available at *Reading Online*. You will find detailed planning instructions, classroom examples, blackline masters and a discussion forum where you can share tips with other teachers. To access the resources, search for Rasinski’s name in the author list.

National Institute for Literacy

<http://www.nifl.gov/>

Searching on vocabulary yields more than 300 articles, research reviews, and resources.

Reading Quest

<http://www.readingquest.org/strat/wordmap.html>

Contains useful information on improving reading comprehension and activities to improve students writing and vocabulary.

“Reading—Vocabulary”

<http://www.literacymatters.org/content/readandwrite/vocab.htm>

Includes links to lesson plans for content vocabulary, “tools” for teaching vocabulary, strategy descriptions, and general vocabulary activities.

Resource Room

<http://www.resourceroom.net/comprehension/vocabactivities.asp>

Teaching strategies and vocabulary activities. Promotes a structured, thematic, multi-sensory approach to vocabulary development.

“Teaching Vocabulary”

<http://content.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=4503>

This site, part of Scholastic’s Reading Resources Network, has links to word lists, ways to encourage vocabulary development through voluntary reading, and ways to involve parents in students’ word learning.

TV411

<http://www.tv411.org/vocabulary/>

A variety of vocabulary lessons that can be used online

“Vocabulary Acquisition: Synthesis of the Research”

<http://idea.uoregon.edu/~ncite/documents.html>

Baker, Simmons and Kameenui offer a research-based analysis of the diversity of word learning styles. The document can be found at the National Center to Improve the Tools of Educators website. Look for it under "Technical Reports of Reading Research Synthesis."

"Vocabulary Learning Online"

<http://www.readingonline.org/>

If you are interested in more ideas about how students can use the Web for vocabulary growth, read Karen Bromley's article in *Reading Online*, an electronic journal of the International Reading Association. To access the article, search for Bromley's name in the author list.

"Visualizing Vocabulary"

<http://www.nwp.org/cs/public/print/resource/quarterly/Q2002no3/simmons.html>

This article comes from the National Writing Project WWW site. It describes several activities that foster word learning and practice through illustrations.

"Word Study: Ways to Captivate Reluctant Learners"

<http://www.ohiorc.org/adlit/inperspective/issue/2007-03/Article/vignette.aspx>

In this article Mary Jo Fresch suggests ways to use word study across the curriculum. The suggestions provide ideas to engage learners to help expand their vocabulary.