

Vocabulary Building Toolkit

12 classroom-tested ways to grow students' vocabulary — plus how to use them.

- 01** **Weekly Word Wall** — A themed board (e.g. "Monuments") that students add to daily. Turn it into a house competition — most correct, appropriate words wins.
 - 02** **Library & Reader's Club** — Assigned library periods and a reader's club build vocabulary alongside reading habits.
 - 03** **Daily Vocabulary Drill** — Open each class with 3 words: root, synonyms, antonyms, and word forms (noun/verb/adjective/adverb). Assign similar words as homework.
 - 04** **Word Competitions** — Intra- or inter-class contests using a word bank from all subjects — quizzes, puzzles, and "give the meaning of" rounds.
 - 05** **Adjective & Adverb Add-Ons** — Give students a list of verbs and have them add appropriate adverbs — works well as a card-matching group game.
 - 06** **Context-Clue Comprehensions** — Teach new words through reading passages, focusing on figuring out meaning from context.
 - 07** **Word Journal** — Students log new words as they meet them, with synonyms, antonyms, and an original sentence.
 - 08** **Anagrams & Dumb Charades** — Use pictures brought in by students or the teacher to prompt descriptive vocabulary and associated ideas.
 - 09** **Class Newsletter** — A monthly newsletter for achievements, stories, poems, and articles — builds vocabulary and writing together.
 - 10** **The Word Jar** — Students drop new words on chits into a jar; the teacher reads and discusses meaning and context weekly.
 - 11** **Diamante Poems** — A fun structured poem form that pushes students toward the dictionary and thesaurus.
 - 12** **Curated Viewing** — TED-Ed's mythology series, Nat Geo, History, and Discovery documentaries for rich vocabulary and correct pronunciation.
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Quick Start: Running a Word Wall

1. Pick a weekly theme spanning any subject (e.g. Monuments, Weather, Emotions).
 2. Students add related words each morning using sticky notes or directly on the board.
 3. Optional: split the class into house groups — most correct, well-used words wins the week.
 4. On Friday, assign a short paragraph using the week's words, and connect it to a grammar topic (e.g. Parts of Speech).
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