

## Being an Effective Vocabulary Learner

Purpose: Part of being a “good student” is paying attention, doing your homework and participating in class. Even though this might help you get a good grade in the class, it is not enough to become an effective language learner. It’s also important to learn how to ask good questions. When you ask good questions, you will get a deeper understanding of the language you are learning and you will be able to be more autonomous and responsible for your own learning.

<b>Things you say or think about.....</b>	<b>Why it’s important</b>	<b>Example</b>
<i>Can I say .....to my teacher? Friend? A professor at DVC?</i>	Here you are trying to understand appropriate situations to use this word or expression.	<b>“How’s it goin’?”</b>
<i>Is there another meaning to this? Because the way it is used here doesn’t seem like the same meaning I know. (recognizing)</i>	Here you have encountered a familiar word used in a different way and you want to know the meaning.	<b>“My car has a lot of <u>dirt</u> on it.”</b>  <b>“Have you heard the <u>dirt</u> on the new student?”</b>
<i>What is the verb/noun/adjective/adverb form of this word? (producing)</i>  <i>What does it mean that there is a “ness” added to this vocabulary word? (recognizing)</i>	Here you want to use the word in a grammatically correct way, but have only learned one form.	
<i>Where is the stress when I pronounce this word? Does the stress change when I use it in different forms? (producing)</i>  <i>I noticed that the stress on these words are different even though they are the same words. (recognize)</i>	Here you are noticing or trying to use the correct pronunciation for different parts of speech.	<b>“He is a very <u>authentic</u> person.”</b>  <b>“People are impressed by his <u>authenticity</u>.”</b>
<i>I have used this word three times in my writing. Is there another word that I can use that has the same meaning?</i>	Here you are trying to find new ways of expressing yourself.	<b>This <u>thing</u> that goes with the computer keeps breaking.</b>  <b>This <u>device</u> that goes with the computer keeps breaking.</b>
<i>Does this go with another word or can I use it by itself?</i>	Here you want to know which words collocate so that you can be more accurate in your speech and writing.	<b>Passionate – about</b> <b>Look-at/for/to</b> <b>Turn-out/in/up/around</b>