



Today we will ...

- Think about why having a good vocabulary is important
- Find out about what school staff and Speech Therapy do to help develop vocabulary
- Learn practical strategies to support my child to learn new words at home

Why is having a good vocabulary important?

Children who know lots of words tend to do better in school – in English and Maths, and across the curriculum



Why is having a good vocabulary important?

Once children know how to read words, having a good vocabulary is the biggest predictor of achievement

'The correlation between vocabulary size and life chances is as firm as any correlation in educational research. Vocabulary is important because it embodies and communicates concepts.'
Ofsted, 2019

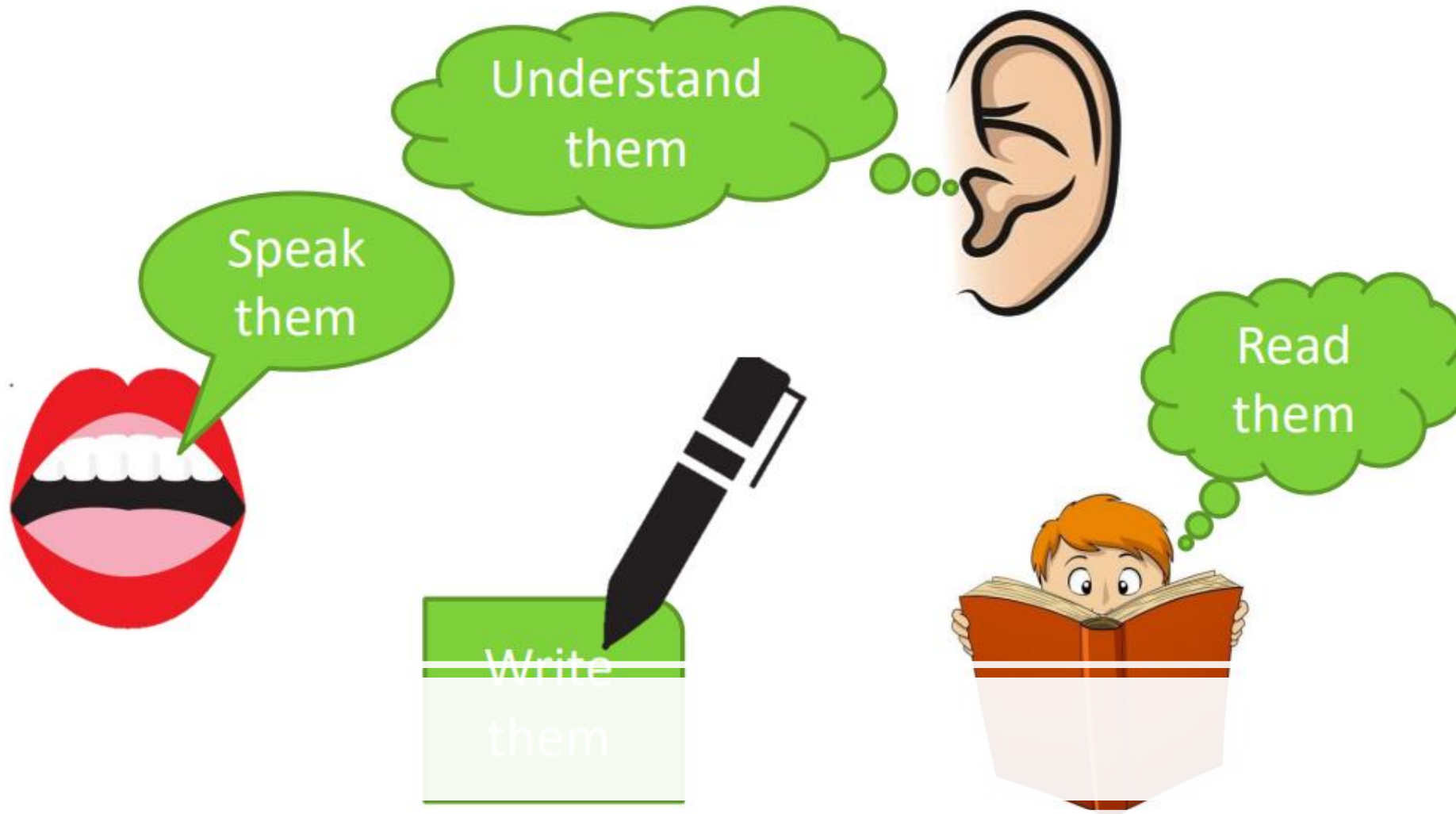


Why is having a good vocabulary important?

Employers want people who have good communication and language skills – vocabulary is a big part of that



What do we need to do with words



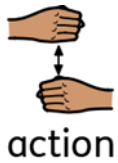
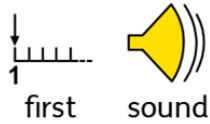
What happens
at school to
help my child
with
vocabulary?

- Subject leads / teachers add key vocab to their **medium-term plans** and are encouraged to pre-teach key vocabulary at the start of topics / lessons.
- Staff have had **Word Whizz training from the SALT team** and use a range of those methods in their pre-teaching.
- Some subjects have **knowledge organisers** (e.g. Art) which include key vocab, others have their key vocab stuck into the **front of books** (e.g. Humanities)
- **Lexia** is used schoolwide which had a section that focuses on word-reading and comprehension, targeted to the level of the individual student.
- **SaLT support** for individual students as needed.



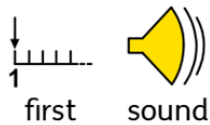
Word Whizz

Word: _____



Word Whizz

Word: Organise



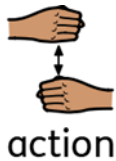
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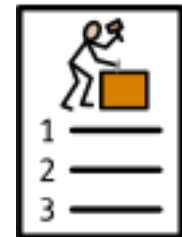
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Surprise



To arrange things in a particular order or into particular groups



I **organised** my homework into different subjects and decided which subject I would do first

Word Aware

Effective word learners



3. Independent word learning



2. Teach words



1. Get excited about words



Whole school approach supported by families

How can I help my child learn new words?

Children need to hear a new word between **12** and **36** times before they are able to confidently use it within spoken or written language

I know it!

It has something to do with ...?

I'm not sure?!

I've never seen it before

What can I do to help my child?

Encourage your child to tell you when they don't know a word (and be honest when you don't either!)

Look in a dictionary

<https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english>

Look for clues!



What can I do to help my child?

Explore the word together

Think about the sounds in the word



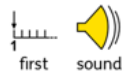
Talk about what the word means

Make up a sentence together



What can I
do to help
my child?


Word Whizz



Word: _____

 Meaning

 Picture or
drawing

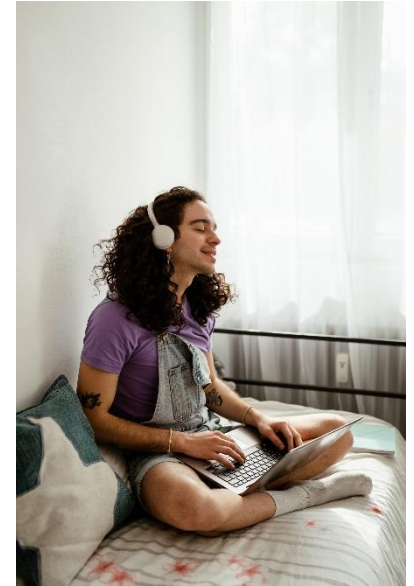
 Sentence

What can I do to help my child?

Promote reading in all forms

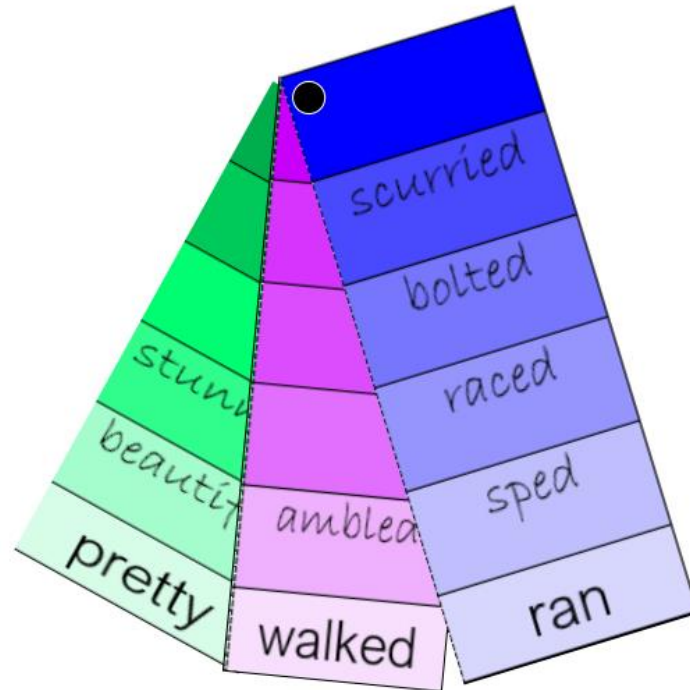
Audiobooks:

- getepic.com
- calibreaudio.org.uk
- listening-books.org.uk
- librivox.org
- borrowbox.com



What can I
do to help
my child?

Paint chart thesaurus



What can I do to help my child?

Play word games

Big Brain

I think with my big brain something that is (meaning clue) and it starts with a (letter clue).



How can I help my child remember the word?

Draw a picture of the word

Act the word out

Think about who or what might be like this word

Use the word lots of times during the week





- Helps children develop skills to find out for themselves what words mean
- Helps them to think about words they already know to learn new ones
- Looking at the rest of the sentence to help them work it out

REMEMBER!

Lots of words have more than one meaning



Questions??



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