

Vocabulary Notebooks

Research shows that using these can really boost your vocabulary; on average about 1,000 words per year. To really improve your vocabulary you must do the following:

1. Use a small pocket notebook
2. List a maximum of 8 words a week (ten is too many and becomes ineffective)
3. Choose only the words that are interesting or useful to you. Ignore the words you don't need.
4. Study them every day by, (1) Looking at the English word and guessing the Japanese translation; (2) Looking at the Japanese translation and guessing what the English word should be; (3) read the pronunciation of the word; (4) read the example sentence; (5) if you find another sentence that uses that word, add it, too.
5. Spend about 10 minutes each day doing this.

Examples:

① Dog ② 犬, ③ noun (名詞), ④ /dɒg/
⑤ A small animal with four legs. It is a popular pet, and likes to chase cats. ⑥ "She has a cute little dog."
Square, noun (名詞), /skweə/
A person who must follow the rules, and never takes risks to have fun. "Tom is such a square. He won't let us use the tennis courts on weekdays"

Include the following information:

- ① Word, ② Japanese, ③ part of speech, ④ pronunciation
- ⑤ Simple English meaning*
- ⑥ Example sentence (from the place you discovered the word)

③ Noun 名詞, verb 動詞, adjective 形容詞, adverb 副詞, pronunciation 発音

* Needed for vocabulary quizzes

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