

11. RECORDING AND REVIEWING VOCABULARY

Why Record and Review Vocabulary?

- To have a quick access to important words you need to learn
- To be able to review them as often as necessary
- To learn and use the words well

How to Record and Review Vocabulary

- You can use **index cards** or a **note book** (whichever you like better).
 - Index cards let you sort words more easily.
 - A notebook lets you put a large number of words in one place.
- Write down the word, the definition* and a sentence to help you remember the word's meaning.
- Try to review groups of related words (from the same topic, book, or class).
- Review the vocabulary words many times (on the subway, in between classes, before tests).
- When you have reviewed a word at least fifteen times, and you know it well, you can stop reviewing it for a while; a week later, review it again to make sure you know it.

Using Index Cards to Record and Review Vocabulary

- On the front of the card, write the word (and the pronunciation if you are not sure how to pronounce it).
- On the back of the card, write the definition and a sentence that expresses the word's meaning.
- Look at the front of the card, and try to remember the definition and sentence you wrote down. Then, check what you wrote on the back of the card.

-Front of Card-

| |
|-------------------------------------|
| <p>Charismatic [Kærəzmætɪk]</p> |
|-------------------------------------|

-Back of Card-

| |
|---|
| <p>Definition: a person who has the ability to attract attention and admiration</p> <p>Sentence: <i>Professor Martin, my psychology teacher, is a <u>charismatic</u> speaker, so students love to listen to his lectures.</i></p> |
|---|

Using a Notebook to Keep a Vocabulary Log

- On one left side of the page, write the word (and the pronunciation if you need to).
- On the right side, write the definition and a sentence that expresses the meaning of the word.
- When reviewing the words, cover the right side of the page, and try to remember the definition and the sentence you wrote down. Then, check if you are correct.
- Other times, cover the word on the left side and just look at the definition; try to remember the word that matches the definition. Then, check if you are correct.

-Left Side of Page-

| |
|-------------------------------------|
| <p>Charismatic [Kærəzmætɪk]</p> |
|-------------------------------------|

-Right Side of Page-

| |
|---|
| <p>Definition: a person who has the ability to attract attention and admiration</p> <p>Sentence: <i>Professor Martin, my psychology teacher, is a <u>charismatic</u> speaker, so students love to listen to his lectures.</i></p> |
|---|

* You can find easy to understand definitions of words at: <http://dictionary.cambridge.org>