

Flash Cards

Flash cards can be a very useful tool for learning and remembering words and their definitions if they are used properly. In order to get the most benefit from a set of flash cards, simply follow the steps outlined below.

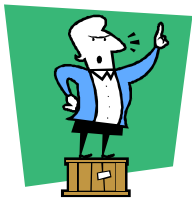
Materials:

- Highlighter, preferably yellow.
- Index Cards (3 x 5 or 4 x 6, depending on need and preferences)
- Black or blue ink pen with a medium or larger point.

1. On one side of the card write the word, preferably near the top, but centered horizontally.
2. Below the word write one complete sentence that uses the word correctly. If the word is from a vocabulary lesson, you have probably been provided with at least one good sentence. Locate the vocabulary word in the sentence and **highlight it in yellow**. Yellow is preferred because it is an easy color to see through.
3. On the back of the index card write two synonyms near the top, but centered. Again, you may have been provided synonyms as part of the vocabulary lesson. If you have not been given synonyms, look up two on your own using a thesaurus or a dictionary designed to provide synonyms along with the definition. Because most words have multiple meanings, be sure that the synonyms you select have the same meaning as the vocabulary word as it is used in your sample sentence. If you have any doubts, ask your teacher.
4. Below the synonyms, write the definition of the vocabulary word.
5. Below the definition, write the word "antonym" and then write one or more antonyms. Be sure to label the words as antonyms so that you will not get confused about the meaning of the vocabulary word you are studying. Also remember to use at least one antonym with which you are already familiar.



Now you are ready to use your flash cards.



6. Simply read aloud the vocabulary word on each card, read the sentence using the vocabulary word, turn the card over and read aloud the synonyms, and then read the definition — again, out loud. Hearing yourself say the vocabulary words and reading the synonyms and definitions out loud will help reinforce the ideas and you will learn the material more quickly.
7. Next, read the word "antonym" out loud, read the antonym or antonyms, and then read aloud again the word "antonym." Antonyms will help you remember the original vocabulary word and will increase your vocabulary. Reading aloud will help reinforce meanings.

The idea is to read each card, one at a time and in some kind of order determined by you, until you think you can read only the vocabulary words and the associated sentences on the front of the index cards and then, from memory, repeat the correct synonyms, definitions, and antonyms. How many cards you work with at the same time is up to you, but be sure to read one card completely before going on to the next.

Sample flash cards have been provided on the next page.

Front

INEXPLICABLE

There were **inexplicable** sounds coming from the building, which only added to the confusion about what was happening.

PERPLEXING

INSOLVABLE

inexplicable (adj.) – incapable of being explained

antonyms: explainable, obvious

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