

Basic. Five. Ahoy! Did ye heartily enjoy th' shore leave? On average, American students add 2,000–3,000 words a year to their reading vocabularies. This means that they learn from six to eight new words each day.

What does it mean to know a word? We usually mean knowing its definition. But knowing a word's definition is not the same thing as being able to use that word in speech and writing. To know a word, students need to encounter it in context and see how its meaning relates to the words around it. For example, look at changes in meaning for the word *gave*, as it appears in different contexts:

Josh gave Nick five dollars.

Tyler gave Hannah a kiss.

Not surprisingly, abstract words are more difficult to learn than are concrete words. Some words represent not just a new term, but a new concept. For example, a concept such as logarithm needs to be learned in the context of other mathematical concepts.

See you [here](#) .

