


There's a better way to learn vocabulary.



Be - Olmak
Say - Söyle
Get - Almak
Make - Yapmak
Think - Düşünmek
Such - Böyle
Use - Kullanmak
Find - Bulmak
Tell - Söylemek
Put - Koymak

A seminar from the Independent Learning Center

5 key principles for learning vocabulary:

- Selection

Seçim

- Association

Bağlantı

- Revision

Revizyon

- Storage

Depolama

- Use

Kullanma

1. Selection **Seçim**

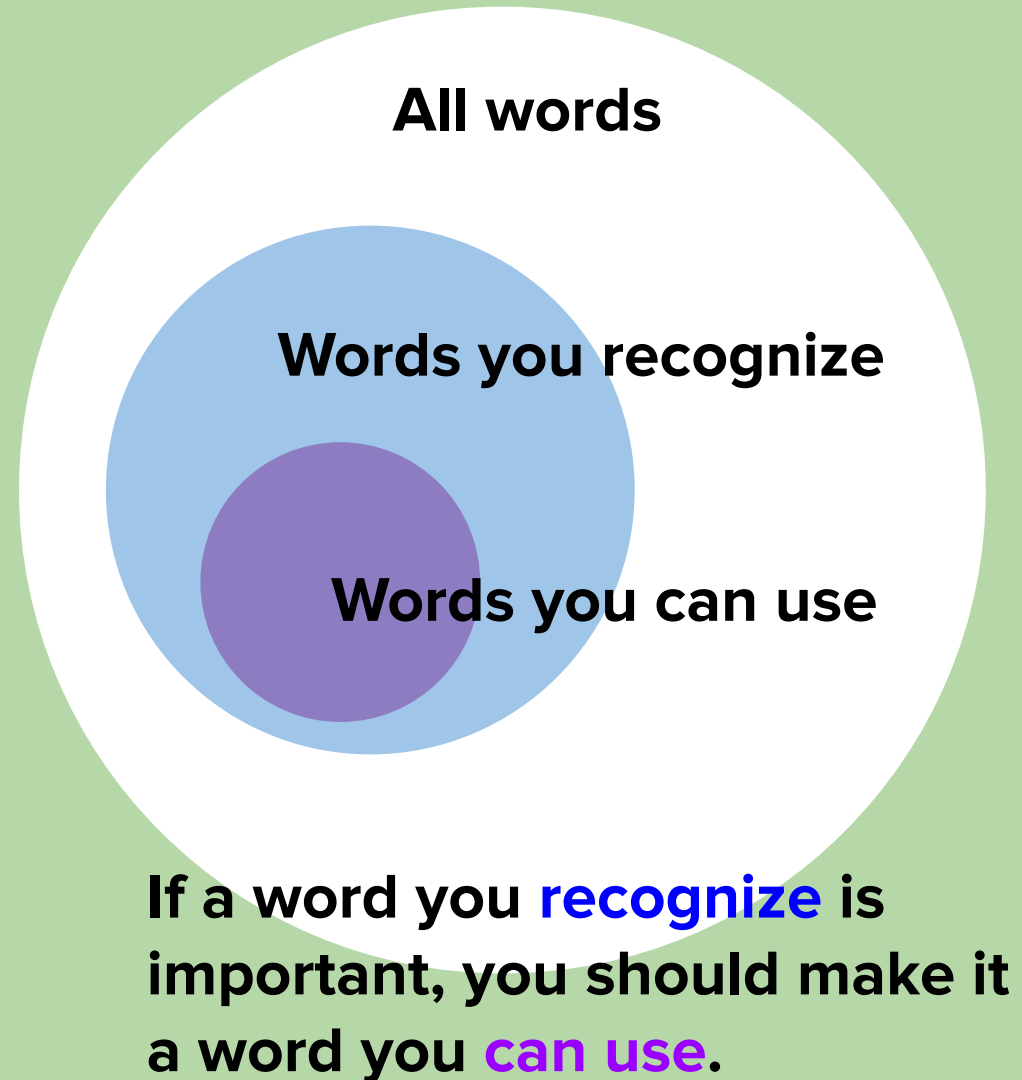
- Choose what words to learn.
- The most important words you will want to learn completely and be able to use them yourself.

= **YOUR USABLE VOCABULARY**

- Less important words you will know when you see them, but you are less likely to use them.

= **YOUR KNOWN VOCABULARY**

- Focus on (A) commonly used words/phrases and (B) academic English.



1. Selection Seçim

A. Commonly Used Words/Phrases

When you see a word you don't know, how do you decide if you should learn it?

Dictionaries can tell you how common a word is, what level it is, and other useful information. Let's look at two examples:

The Oxford Learner's Dictionary:

<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/provide?q=provide>

<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/intervene?q=intervene>

The Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English:

<https://www.ldoceonline.com/dictionary/provide>

<https://www.ldoceonline.com/dictionary/intervene>

1. Selection Seçim

B. Academic English

What is the Academic Word List (AWL)?

<https://www.eapfoundation.com/infographics/vocab/awl/>

How can I study the AWL?

https://quizlet.com/itu_sfl_ilc/folders/academic-word-list/sets

How can I tell what words are AWL in my reading texts?

[text sample / https://www.eapfoundation.com/vocab/academic/highlighter/](https://www.eapfoundation.com/vocab/academic/highlighter/)

2. Association Bağlantı

Often, you get your vocabulary in lists like this →
But it is not effective to learn from lists!

Most human brains need CONTEXT and CONNECTION to remember things.

Memory is helped by connecting **new information to what we already know**, or by creating stories and images in our brains.

Advantage
Citizen
To depend on
To disappear
Document
To examine
Fake
Identification
To require
To store
Technology
Tourist
To trick
Unique

2. Association **Bağlantı**

- One way is to make a sentence that you will remember.
- Make it exaggerated (abartılı), personal, or funny so you will remember it easily.
- Find or imagine a picture to help.

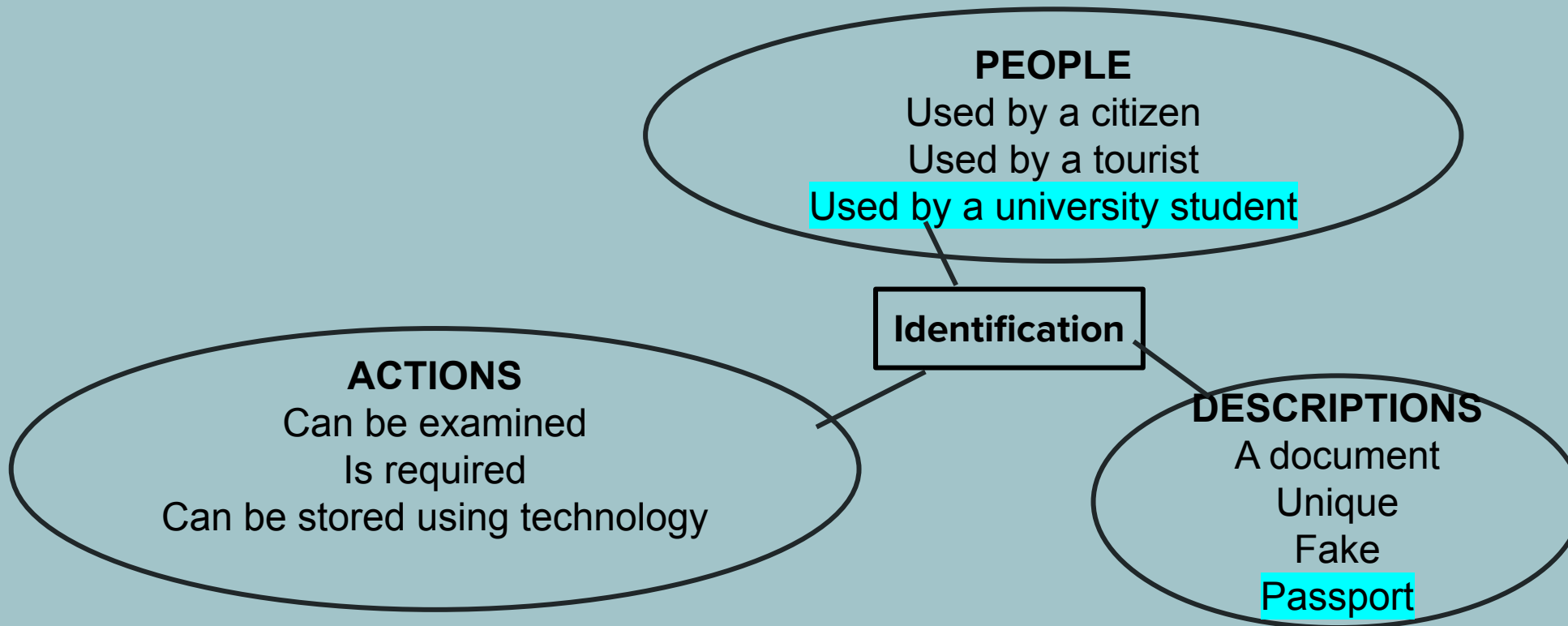
When I went to the US, the Customs Officer examined my identification carefully to be sure it wasn't fake.



2. Association **Bağlantı**

Another way to create connections is to draw a diagram.

It can also help to include words that you **already know**.



Advantage
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3. Revision **Revizyon**

What happens in the brain when we learn a new word?

When you just see it, it goes to your sensory memory for <1 second.
If you stop looking at it, you will forget it immediately.

If you look longer, it will go to your working memory for <20 seconds.
You can use it for a short time, but then you will forget it.

If you do something productive with it (like write it in a sentence), it will go to your long-term memory.

But if you do this just once, it might be hard to retrieve it.

The more you do it, the easier it is to retrieve.

3. Revision **Revizyon**

S-P--A---C-----I-----N-----G

- Just repeating a new word ten times is useless for long-term memory.
- You need to **space out** your revision of the word. How many revisions each word needs depends on the word and your brain. Some words will be easier than others.
- **For example:** Review the word 1 hour after you learn it, again after 4 hours, again after 24 hours, again after 3 days, 10 days, 25 days, etc.
- Here's a good revision method:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C20EvKtdJwQ>

3. Revision **Revizyon**

Here is another method you can use with your vocabulary lists.
The first time you study, sort the words into three groups:

1. Words I know	2. Words I can recognize	3. Words I don't know
Advantage	Unique	Citizen
Tourist	To trick	To disappear
Technology	To depend on	To store
Document	To examine	Fake

- Put the important words in group 3 into your vocabulary notebook (see next section) and review them regularly.
- Use the important words in group 2 in your writing/speaking to move them from passive to active (see final section)
- Review the words in group 1 periodically to remind yourself of them.

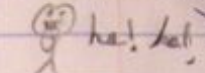
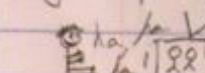


4. Storage Depolama

*"Spoken words fly away,
but written words stay."*

To learn new words, record them for later review. It could be a notebook, a spreadsheet, or a card file.

You must include more than a Turkish translation.

What is good about this vocabulary notebook?

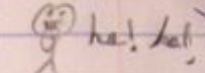
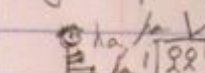


Word	Definition	Drawing
1. chuckle	laugh softly	 I chuckled when my mom played hopscotch.
2. humorous	funny	 I like the 3 Stooges because they always make me laugh.
3. descend	to move downward	 After dad called me, I had to descend to his study.
4. avoid	to keep away from	 Avoid Smoking! Save your lungs!

Good things in this vocabulary notebook:

The definition is given in English, not in the learner's native language. (You can do both but don't leave out the English!)

There are drawings and sample sentences to give more meaning.

★★★ The sample sentences are from the learner's own life. You can use examples from the dictionary, but you should also write YOUR OWN to make it PERSONAL and MEMORABLE.

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Things that could be added:

Add the part of speech:

Chuckle is a verb, humorous is an adjective.

Add the “word family” words:

to descend / a descent

to avoid / avoidable / unavoidable

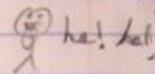
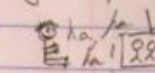

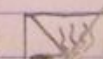
Show how the words are used in a sentence:

avoid + V-ing

chuckle at something

Add useful synonyms or antonyms:

The opposite of descend is ascend.

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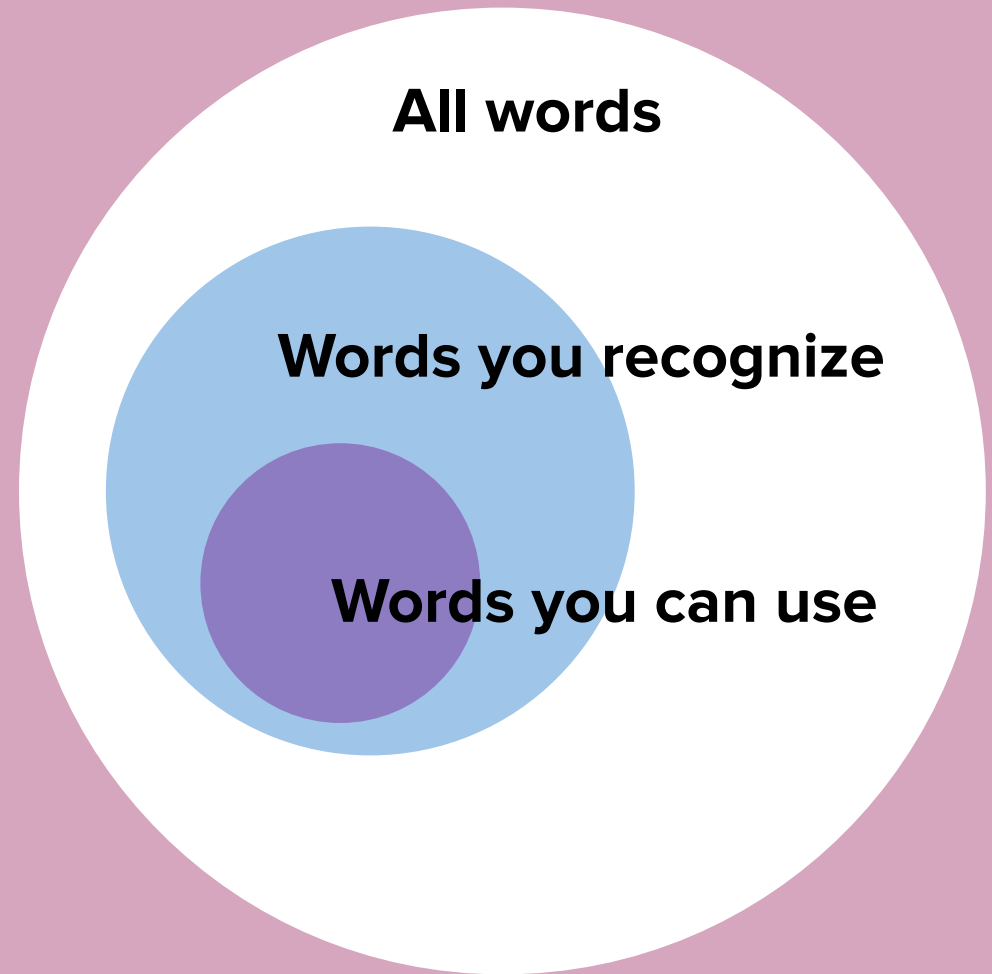
4. Use **Kullanma**

"Use it or lose it."

If you want your "words you can use" to grow, you need to **USE** them, meaning **WRITING** and/or **SPEAKING**.

One suggestion: Each week choose 5-10 words to focus on. Use those words as often as you can, in writing, speaking, or just thinking of funny sentences.

Another idea: After reading something that has your target vocabulary, write a summary/response/disagreement using the important words.



Summary

- Selection Seçim

= Choose the words you want/need to learn

- Association Bağlantı

= Relate them to what you already know

- Revision Revizyon

= Review them until they reach your long-term memory

- Storage Depolama

= Record them so learning is never lost

- Use Kullanma

= Use them in meaningful conversation and communication