Strategies for Learning Vocabulary

Create a vocabulary notebook

A vocabulary notebook can be very useful, but not if it is just a list of words with Turkish translations.

> *To convince = ikna etmek*
> *To benefit = faydalanmak*
> *To damage = zarar vermek*

This approach is **not effective** because it does not show you how each word can be used. To remember words, you need to see and use them in context. You can do some of the following:

Find an example sentence in a dictionary

> *To convince = ikna etmek*
> *We tried to convince my grandfather to live with us.**
>
> **From https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/convince*
> *The English-only Cambridge dictionary has more sentences than the English-Turkish version.*
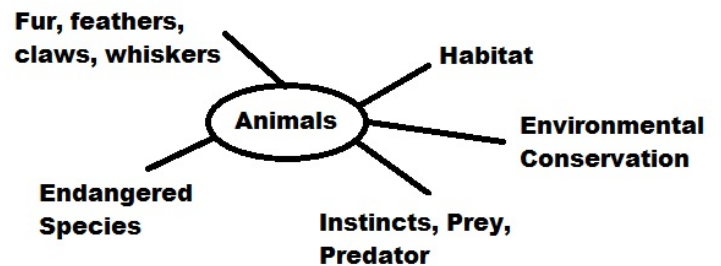
Write your own example sentence, related to your own life

> *To convince = ikna etmek*
> *We tried to convince my grandfather to live with us.**
> *After many weeks, I finally convinced my father to buy me a new mobile phone.*

Write down the different forms of the word with sentence using each of them
If you find sentences in the dictionary, you can notice the grammatical details

V	to benefit	*Many oil companies benefited **from** the rising price of crude oil.*
N	a benefit	*One benefit **of** foreign travel is learning how to cope with unexpected situations.*
Adj	beneficial	*Only some bacteria are harmful, many are beneficial.*

Make mind maps of different ways a word can be used or connecting related words together

Create flashcards of all your vocabulary words, with the English word on the front and the English definition on the back (with the Turkish meaning if you want).

Use the Leitner system to review your flash cards: *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C20EvKtdJwQ*

Day 1: Put all the cards in Box 1 and review them. If you get a card right, move it to Box 2. If you get it wrong, it stays in Box 1.
Day 2: Review Box 1.
Day 3: Review Box 1. Review Box 2. If you get a card right, move it up to Box 3. If you get it wrong, move it back to Box 1.
Day 4: Review Box 1. Review Box 3. If you get a card right, it can stay in the box. If you get it wrong, it goes all the way back to Box 1.
Day 5: Review Box 1 and Box 2.
Day 6: Review Box 1.
Day 7: Review Box 1, Box 2 and Box 3.
Then, repeat Days 1-7, adding more cards into Box 1.

Use Quizlet to study the Academic Word List

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

The Academic Word List is a set of 570 words appear very commonly in academic texts. It is divided into ten subsets in order of usage (the most common words are in subset 1). Use these quizlet flashcard sets to learn the words. Use the ones with definitions to study, and then use the ones with example sentences to check your understanding.

Use a collocations dictionary to find words that go together

http://www.freecollocation.com/

A collocations dictionary shows what words are commonly used together. For example, if you look up the word "benefit", you can find these results:

benefit *noun*
¹ advantage
ADJ. **considerable, enormous, great, major, real, substantial** *This could bring real benefits for teachers.* | **maximum** | **additional** *The scheme has many additional benefits.* | **fringe** (= extra things that an employer gives as well as wages) *The fringe benefits include free health insurance.* | **mutual** *The different environmental groups could work together to their mutual benefit.* | **potential** | **long-term, short-term** | **economic, environmental, financial, health, social** | **tax**

Use a corpus to see how words are used in natural language

The News on the Web corpus is a database of online news: https://www.english-corpora.org/now/
You can search for a word or phrase to see how that word is used in newspapers and magazines. For example, here is a partial result for the word "convince":

1	19-09-29 US	Mashable	A B C	snarling soundtrack thanks to Black Sabbath's " War Pigs " and Fiennes trying to **convince** his team to try this newfangled thing called a parachute.
3	19-09-29 US	International Business Times	A B C	officers pulled out their Met Police badges, hoping this would be enough to **convince** the local bobbies to let them go about their business. But the z
4	19-09-29 US	The Desert Sun	A B C	. Mark J. Terrill / AP file # Gov. Jerry Brown is racing to **convince** state lawmakers to extend California's cap-and-trade program which puts a price on
5	19-09-29 US	NJ Spotlight	A B C	, advocates say. # Perhaps more problematic, the state's own efforts to **convince** drivers to switch to cleaner electric vehicles is slowing. This is due, i
6	19-09-29 US	Greenville News	A B C	a case for death, and that would be countered by the defense trying to **convince** at least one juror to vote for life. All it would take for Jones
7	19-09-29 US	The Business of Fashion	A B C	beauty business is booming, and so are retailers like Dover Street Market that can **convince** consumers they are " destinations " and brand platforms