

Vocabulary Journal

We can only acquire and retain about 1 – 3 new words per day (20 / week, tops). Therefore, your vocabulary acquisition will be based on quality, not quantity. Use this vocabulary journal to spend some quality time with your 1 – 3 new words each day. The ideal process is to

1. Read the word in context and make note of that context
2. Look up the dictionary definition of the word
3. Look up its etymology (word roots, language source, time period, derivations, etc.)
4. Use the word yourself. This step is key to retaining the word forever!

Stella Student demonstrates the steps below.

Word of the day: *punctilious*

Where I read it: I was reading an article about the manager of a small hotel, and it said that he was punctilious about making sure the rooms were clean and in good working order.

Definition (dictionary.com): Strict or exact in the observance of the formalities or amenities of conduct or actions.

Etymology: Related to the Spanish word *puntillo* (Italian *puntiglio*) which is a diminutive form of Latin *punctum*, meaning “point”. In other words, it relates to small points / details.

My own usage: I was talking to a friend that I used to work with, joking about the boss who read the digital clock out loud to us when we came in late and signed in for our shifts. I said that he was so punctilious about every minute and every dollar that he should have had a punch clock.



A blank vocabulary journal follows. Make as many copies as you need!

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Word of the day:

Where I read it:

Definition:

Etymology:

My own usage: