There are hundreds of thousands of words in the English language. The average adult needs 50,000 - 100,000 for daily communication then there is the specialized vocabulary for your area of study.

Do you know these words?

abrogate  ersatz  saturnine  ineffable

If no, then you probably need to work on your vocabulary.

Learn one new word a day.

www.m-w.com  www.dictionary.com
www.oed.com/cgi/display/wotd  www.wordthink.com
www.wordsmith.org/awad/index.html
www.yourdictionary.com/wotd/wotd.pl

- Pay attention to new words. When you see a new word STOP and write it down, don’t skip it.
- Put an index card in each book you are reading and write down good words on it. Look them up and write down the definition on the index card at a later time.
- Make a mnemonic device. A mnemonic device is a visual or verbal clue to help you remember a word. Close your eyes and create the following image in your mind to match each of the following words:
  - raconteur – a raconteur is a story teller. So, picture a raccoon, sitting in a corner telling a story to a whole group of baby raccoons who are listening attentively. Picture the raccoon’s face, its little hands waving around, and its whiskers twitching as it tells the story. A raconteur is a story teller.
  - pandemic – pandemic means very widespread. Close your eyes and picture the outline of a map of China. Now, picture pandas everywhere stuffed into the map, spilling out over the sides, piled up on top of each other. Pandas pandas everywhere! Pandemic means very widespread.
  - appease – appease means to please. Mnemonic devices don’t have to be visual, they can be auditory as well. Say this to yourself 4 – 5 times in a high pitched sing songy voice, “Appease means to please, appease means to please.” Rock your head back and forth from shoulder to shoulder while you sing it to yourself. Appease means to please.
Now, make up your own mnemonic devices for words that you discover. You’ll find it that it’s easy to do and you’ll become really good at it.

- **Make super flash cards.** Write the word on one side of an index card. On the other write the definition, a sentence using the word correctly, and write or draw a mnemonic device to help you remember the meaning of the word. Now study the flash cards - in the bathroom, on the bus, at lunch. At this point in your academic life, the act of making the flash card should be almost enough to learn the new word.

- **Pay attention to the context.** Is the meaning restated using another word in the next sentence? Learn how to use context to xyperhes* the meaning of the word.

- **Carry a small dictionary with you** and USE IT or bookmark [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com) on your computer/phone.

*this isn’t a real word but, if it were, what would it mean*

Pick 3 of the above vocabulary tips that sound like something that would help you. Write them down below along with how and when you will incorporate them into your Becoming a More Successful Student Plan.

1. 
2. 
3. 

**Power of Positive Thinking.** I have an ever-increasing vocabulary and enjoy learning new words. I read new and unusual materials thus adding new words daily. I pay attention to new words so I can add them to the list of words that I know. I associate with those who have an excellent vocabulary to learn new words. I use the dictionary to increase my vocabulary. I am building an excellent vocabulary and use it daily. My increasing vocabulary is just one indication of how I am learning to become a more successful student at UTEP.