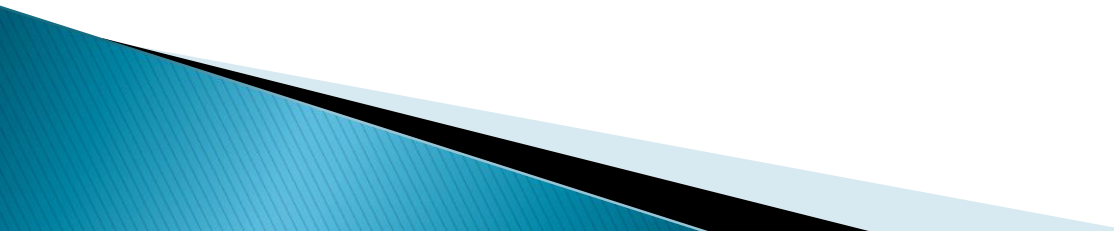


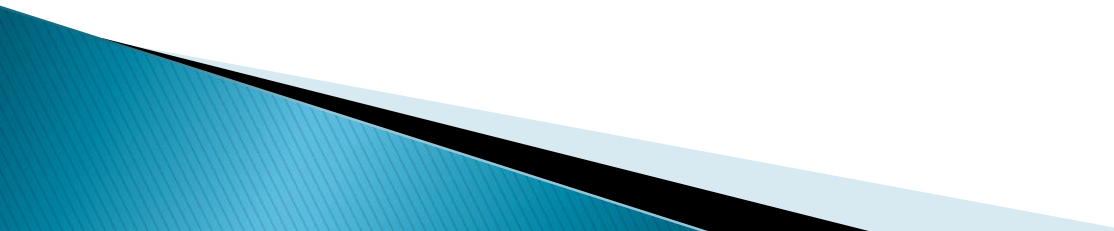
Ways to improve academic vocabulary

1. Introduction

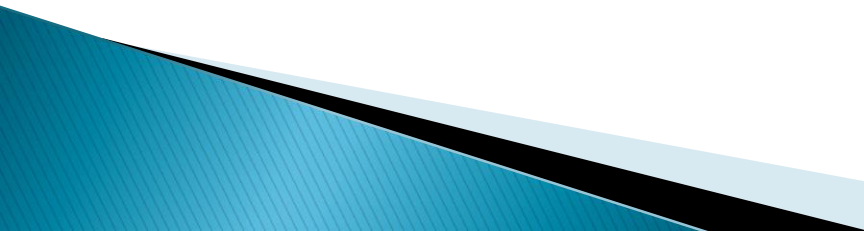
- ▶ Academic vocabulary is critical in speaking, listening, reading and writing and academic achievement.
 - Every student holds a key to better vocabulary, therefore they must learn it to achieve fluency and master it in order to succeed in academic environments.
 - ▶ Be prepared to discover and learn new words and strengthen your English so that you communicate in a clear and concise manner.
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2. Purpose

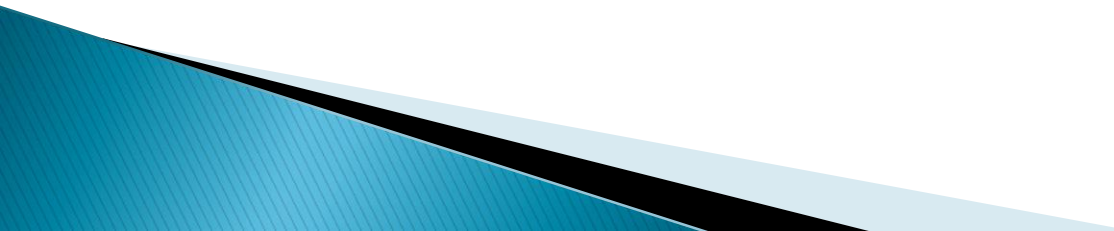
The presentation will enable the student to:

- ▶ Understand the importance of academic vocabulary;
 - ▶ Know the demands of improving of academic vocabulary
 - ▶ Learn the ways to improve academic vocabulary.
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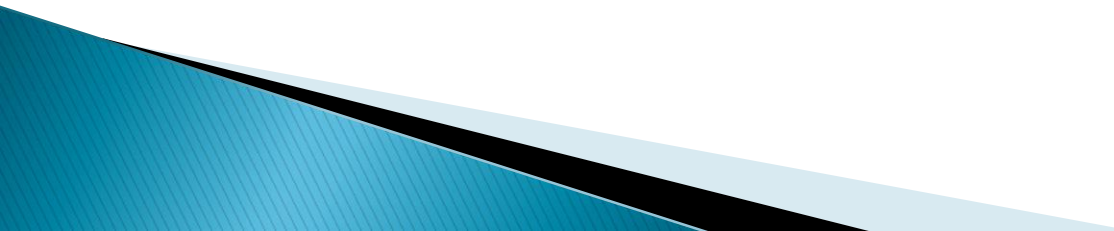
3. Why is it important to improve vocabulary

- ▶ It enhances proficiency in the language required in academic environments.
 - ▶ It is needed for reading and understanding study materials and writing about the subject
 - ▶ It is used to write assignments, researches, analyse literature and understand discipline-specific vocabulary
 - ▶ It increases the perception that you are well-informed
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The demands of improving academic vocabulary

- ▶ Get into an appropriate learning state of mind.
 - ▶ Use your senses to acquire information—vision, hearing, touching, smell, and feeling
 - ▶ Work consistently, when learning new words
 - ▶ Understand what you are learning
 - ▶ Memorise what you are learning
- 


4. Kinds of words that must be learnt

- ▶ The most common words in English which occur frequently in all texts
 - ▶ The specialist vocabulary of your course such as Law terms
 - ▶ Common academic vocabulary
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5. Ways to improve vocabulary

5.1 Read extensively

Reading exposes one to new words

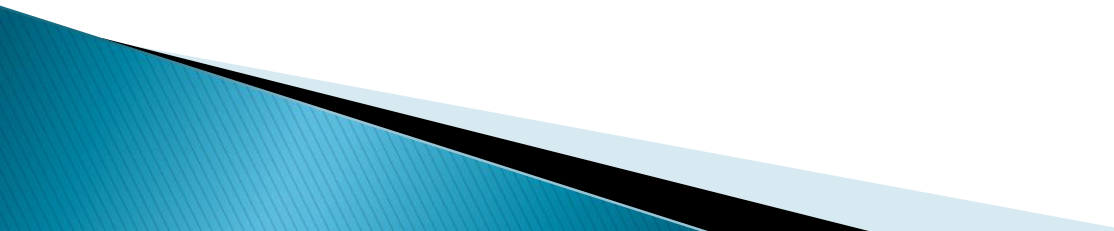
- ▶ Literary works such as novels, magazines and newspapers.
 - ▶ Academic essays, reports and excerpts from prescribed books
 - ▶ Attempt to derive meaning from the context of the sentence.
 - ▶ Look up the definitions in a dictionary (online) .
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Ways to improve

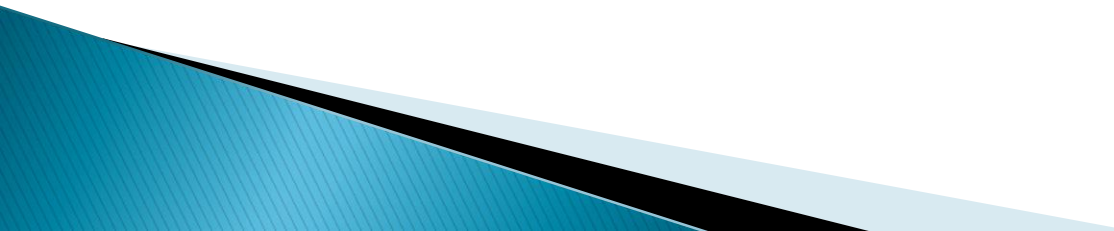
5.1 Read extensively

- ▶ Underline or highlight words in a text
- ▶ Use pictures or diagrams in the text to help you understand the words

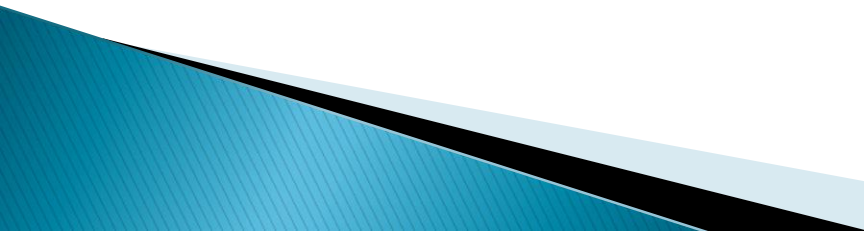
5.2 Learn new vocabulary daily

- ▶ Learn discipline specific terms, concepts that have explicit meaning that is critical to understanding content
 - ▶ Learn how to pronounce the new words
 - ▶ Check how they are spelt
 - ▶ Find out what role it plays in a sentence
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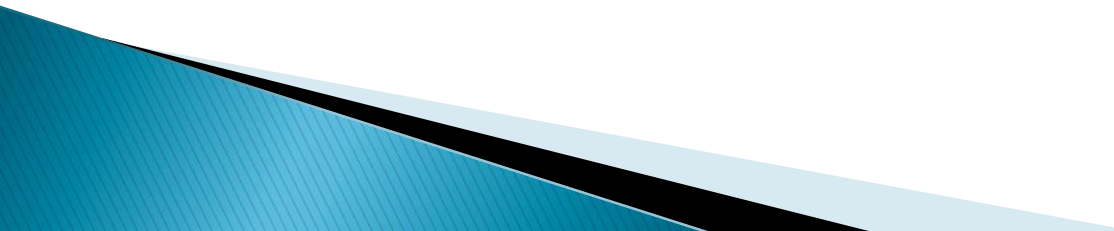
5.3 Learn a new word

- ▶ Find out which other words can be used with that word
 - ▶ Use new vocabulary when engaging with other students
 - ▶ Record new vocabulary and listen to it
 - ▶ Ask someone to explain a new word to you
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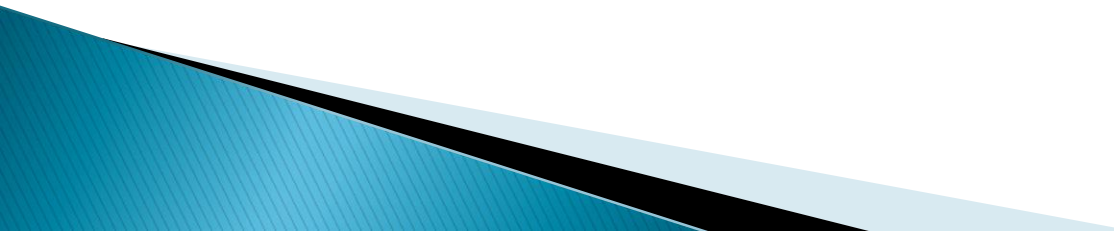
5.4 Keep a dictionary or a thesaurus

- ▶ Use any version you prefer– print, software or online
 - ▶ When uncovering a new word, work out its meaning for yourself then look it up in the dictionary, get both the pronunciation and its meanings, whether they are formal or informal
 - ▶ Use a thesaurus and find similar words and phrases
 - ▶ Look for opposites and antonyms respectively and learn how to use those words in different contexts
 - ▶ Specialised dictionaries such as the Dictionary of science which defines specialist terms
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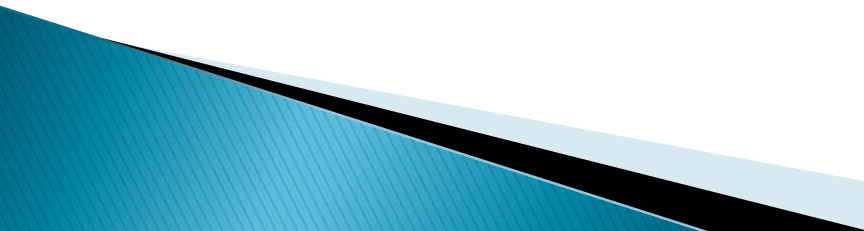
5.4.1 Locating a dictionary

- ▶ Print dictionaries which can be purchased online or from a bookstore. They normally provide a CD containing additional resources such as an advice on how to learn vocabulary exercises, pronunciation
 - ▶ Dictionary application that can be accessed through the smartphone or tablet
 - ▶ Free online dictionaries
- 

6. Keep a journal

- ▶ Compile a list of new words you discover and refer back to them .
 - ▶ Use them everyday
 - ▶ This can provide a positive reinforcement for learning new words
 - ▶ Write sentences or paragraphs using new words
- 

7. Learn the root words

- ▶ Using root words is a powerful tool to learn new words
 - ▶ This enables the deciphering of new words
 - ▶ Most of English words come from Latin or Greek except for political and mathematical words
 - ▶ Learn where a word comes from and how it found its way into the English language
 - ▶ Common root words form the basis of new words through the addition of prefixes and suffixes.
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Activity

Form three words using the following roots and use them in sentences.

Form: shape

Legal: related to law

Aud: to hear

Bene: good

Mem: related to the mind

Multi: many

Auto: self



Answers

Root	Word
Form	formal, informal, formation
Legal	illegal, paralegal legalities
Aud	audio, audience, auditory
Bene	benefactor, benevolent, beneficiary

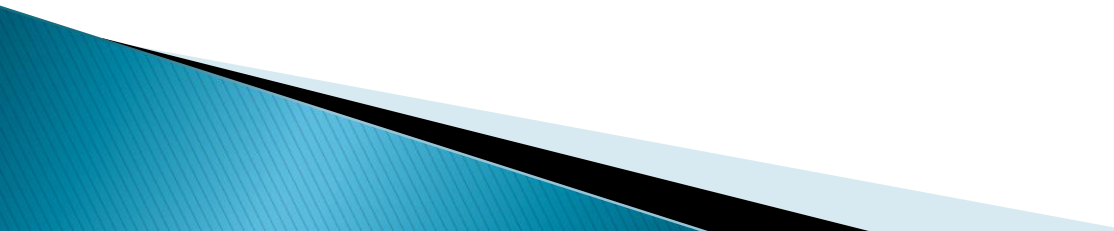
Root	Word
Mem	memory, remember memorial
Multi	multiple multilingual multi-task
Auto	automatic autonomy autocrat



8. Listen to a variety of programmes

- ▶ News broadcasts (radio or television)
- ▶ Documentaries
- ▶ Sport programmes
- ▶ Debates (Parliamentary)

9. Other ways of improving vocabulary

- ▶ Connect a new word with something familiar (for example Tutorial with study)
 - ▶ Practice with word games (crossword puzzles)
 - ▶ Engage in discussions (forums on myUnisa)
 - ▶ Attend meetings, seminars and conferences
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Conclusion

- ▶ Learning vocabulary (general and content-specific) is a requirement in academic studies.
- ▶ It enhances language proficiency.
- ▶ Vocabulary can be learnt in various ways, which are explained in the presentation.

“Best wishes”

