

Vocabulary book and their impact

Mrs C Williamson—TA

I firstly came up with the idea of using a vocabulary book while working with a few year eleven pupils, I wanted to find something to assist them with their revision. I found that they were struggling to remember words and phrases in different subjects, also I realised that this was probably due to the fact that they didn't have an understanding of what some of the words meant. This was in turn holding them back and giving them a disadvantage when it came to tests and exams. In some cases, both pupils one EAL and one English as her first language were believing a word to mean the exact opposite.

After discussing issue's and how to overcome them, I suggested the use of a note book to record words and phrases they were unsure of. Both pupils were happy to do this, they would make me aware and I would write words and phrases, they would then write in the definition. The pupils found this extremely helpful and their confidence excelled.

For the EAL pupil I found that I needed to take this idea a step further as to assist with the language barrier, so to help solve this issue she would then add the translation of the meaning into her first language. This had a very positive affect on the pupil and she was far more confident and happy.

The vocabulary book would be a very beneficial addition to the stop and read intervention as this would also increase a pupil's vocabulary. Maybe this could be an activity during tutor time, pupils could have discussions about the words that they have found difficult, and then using the context the word is used in write the definition into their vocab book to enhance their understanding.

I have recently completed a course "Introduction into Developing Vocabulary".

This course was very informative but the two points that made me think a vocab book would be very beneficial to our pupils were, that pupils understand more than they can read. Also that just using a dictionary does not always install the meaning, but can at times confuse the pupil, as the meaning of the word can change depending on context it is used in.

