

Key Words / Expressions

Please find below a list of useful key words for Year 7 students. These include high frequency verb conjugations as well as some connectives and sentence starters.

1. Je m'appelle *I'm called*
2. C'est *It's*
3. Aujourd'hui *Today*
4. Selon moi *According to me*
5. Je pense que *I think that*
6. À mon avis *In my opinion*
7. Parce que/car *because*
8. Je n'aime pas *I don't like*
9. J'aime *I like*
10. J'habite *I live*
11. J'adore *I love*
12. Et *And*
13. Est *Is*
14. Je déteste *I hate*
15. J'ai *I have*
16. Ennuyeux *Boring*
17. Très *very*
18. Je suis *I am*
19. Je vais *I go/I'm going*

Dictionary Usage (hints for school and home)

Finding the right meaning

The most common mistake that inexperienced dictionary users make is to take the first answer they find, without scanning the entry as a whole looking for the information they need. So they look up a word like *campo* and accept the first answer they find (*country*) when the word they actually want is *field*. Modern bilingual dictionaries go to great lengths to point the user towards the correct meaning, by signposting meanings in the user's own language and by giving examples of use. Encourage students to **look at the signposts and examples** and get into the habit of using them to ensure they find the information they want.

One way of raising students' awareness of this issue is to choose a word with several distinct meanings such as *bar*. Give the students some simple sentences to translate. For example:

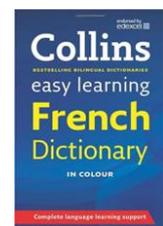
We had breakfast in a bar.

All the houses have bars on the windows.

Can you buy me a chocolate bar?

Being a woman should not be a bar to success.

All the gang members are now behind bars.



Ask them if they can use the same French word in each sentence. Clearly they can't, so when they look up a word they should **scan the entry using the extra information it gives** to make sure they choose the word they really need.

Using dictionaries intelligently

Although we want students to use dictionaries intelligently, we don't want them to become too reliant on them.

When you are reading a text in a foreign language, if you use a dictionary to look up every unfamiliar word you lose the flow of the text and become bored and frustrated.

Encourage students to **guess meanings from context** by giving them a passage with several unfamiliar words in it.

Tell them to **read the passage once without looking anything up**, trying to understand the meanings of any unfamiliar words from their contexts. Then tell them that they can **choose three words to look up**, so they need to choose the ones that are most important to understanding. The students will choose different words and this can lead to a discussion about which are the key words to understanding the text and why, and which can be glossed over or understood from context.

Useful Revision Techniques

The MFL Department at Pudsey Grangefield promotes the 'look, cover, write, check' approach to revision and vocabulary learning. The link below, from Acklam Grange School in Middlesbrough gives further information:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ODC3gLChpPg>

Some Useful Language Learning Websites and Apps

<https://www.languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/index.html>

<https://www.memrise.com> (Website and App. A free user account will needed to be created and students can choose the language and level they wish to study)

<https://www.duolingo.com> (Website and App. A free user account will needed to be created and students can choose the language and level they wish to study)

www.wordreference.com (A useful online dictionary tool)

The Pudsey Grangefield School MFL Department also have a Twitter account, please feel free to follow us: **@MFLPGS**