Learning new vocabulary words can be a daunting task. Whether you are interested in expanding your vocabulary, or you need to learn new words as part of your coursework, follow these tips to improve your ability to learn and remember new words.

- **Consider the Context**
  When you encounter a new word, try to understand its meaning based on the sentence it is in. Can you determine the meaning of *prosaic* in this sentence?

  The masses were too preoccupied by *prosaic* day-to-day concerns.

- **Look Up New Words**
  When you encounter a word you don’t know, don’t just skip over it! Look up the definition in a dictionary or on Google. There are many dictionary apps and websites that make it easy for you to find a definition. Also learn how to pronounce the word – most online dictionaries will include either a description or audio of the correct pronunciation.

- **Use New Words**
  When you learn a new word, try to work it into conversation. When you practice using a new vocabulary word, it is easier to recall its definition.

- **Make Flash Cards**
  Keep a stack of index cards on hand for new vocabulary words: write the word on the front and the definition on the back. Periodically quiz yourself by trying to recall the definition of a word, or recall the word based on the definition. Practice using the word in a sentence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Front:</th>
<th>Back:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prosaic</td>
<td>commonplace or dull; matter-of-fact or unimaginative</td>
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- **Read Voraciously!**
  The single best way to grow your vocabulary is to read more! It doesn’t matter if you are reading novels, news articles, or magazines: the more you read, the more your vocabulary will grow. Set a personal goal to read a certain amount each week.