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### What is Oxford Word Skills?

Oxford Word Skills is a series of three books for students to learn, practise, and revise new vocabulary.

Basic:	elementary and pre-intermediate (CEF levels A1 and A2)	
Intermediate:	intermediate and upper-intermediate (CEF levels B1 and B2)	
Advanced:	advanced (CEF levels C1 and C2)	

There are over 2,000 new words or phrases in each level, and all of the material can be used in the classroom or for self-study.

### How are the books organized?

Each book contains 80 units of vocabulary presentation and practice. Units are between one and three pages long, depending on the topic. New vocabulary is presented in manageable quantities for learners, with practice exercises following immediately. The units are grouped together thematically in modules of four to nine units. At the end of each module there are further practice exercises in the review units, so that learners can revise and test themselves on the vocabulary learned.

At the back of each book you will find:

- vocabulary building tables
- · an answer key for all the exercises
- a list of all the vocabulary taught with a phonemic pronunciation guide and a unit reference to where the item appears.

There is a CD-ROM at each level with oral pronunciation models for all the vocabulary taught, and further practice exercises, including listening activities.

### What vocabulary is included?

At Intermediate level, the vocabulary includes:

- · a wide range of common topics, e.g. money, health issues, relationships
- words and phrases needed in social interaction, e.g. giving opinions, making arrangements to meet
- areas of lexical grammar, e.g. prefixes and suffixes, link words.

There is an emphasis on high-frequency vocabulary in everyday spoken English, but also vocabulary from different types of written text, e.g. job advertisements, magazine articles, web pages, and warning signs. At Advanced level, learners encounter more figurative meanings of vocabulary items, more idiomatic language, and a wide range of collocations.

The series includes almost all of the words in the Oxford 3000<sup>TM</sup>, which lists the 3,000 words teachers and students should prioritize in their teaching and learning. The list is based on frequency and usefulness to learners, and was developed by Oxford University Press using corpus evidence and information supplied by a panel of over 70 experts in the fields of teaching and language study. In addition, we have included a wide range of high frequency phrases, e.g. *don't bother*, *I haven't a clue*, as well as items which are extremely useful in a particular context, e.g. *a filling* at the dentist's.

We have taken great care to ensure that learners will be able to understand the meaning of all the new words and phrases as used in the particular contexts by supplying a clear illustration, a glossary definition, or an example of each word or phrase. Learners should be aware that many English words have more than one meaning. They should also be aware that nouns may be countable in some senses and uncountable in others. They should refer to an appropriate learner's dictionary for information on other meanings and structures and on countability. (See 'How to learn new words' in the Starter unit for advice.)

### How can teachers use the material in the classroom?

New vocabulary is presented through different types of text, including dialogues, tables, and visuals. The meaning of new vocabulary is explained in an accompanying glossary unless it is illustrated in visuals or diagrams. Particularly important items are highlighted by means of 'spotlight' boxes.

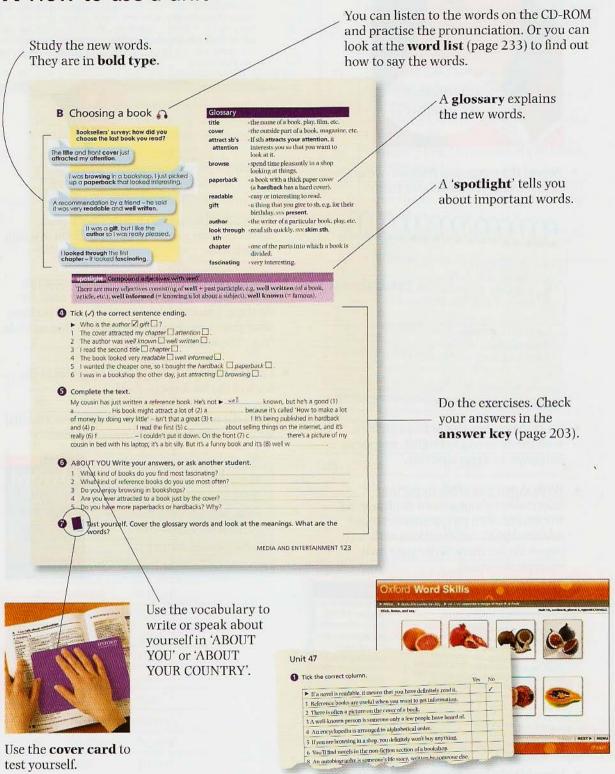
Here is a procedure you could follow:

- Students study the presentation for 5-10 minutes (longer if necessary).
- You answer any queries the students may have about the items, and provide a pronunciation model of the items for your students to repeat.
- Students do the first exercise, which they can check for themselves using the answer key, or you can go over the answers with the whole class.
- When you are satisfied, you can ask students to go on to further exercises, while you monitor them as they work, and assist where necessary.
- When they have completed the written exercises, students can often test themselves on the new vocabulary using the cover card enclosed with the book. The material has been designed so that students can cover the new items while they look at the visuals, glossaries, or tables and test themselves. This is a simple, quick, and easy way for learners to test themselves over and over again, so there is no pressure on you to keep searching for different exercises.
- After a period of time has elapsed, perhaps a couple of days or a week, you can
  use the review exercises for further consolidation and testing.
- You will often notice the headings 'About you' or 'About your country'. These indicate personalized exercises which give learners an opportunity to use the new vocabulary within the context of their own lives. Students can write answers to these, but they make ideal pair work activities for learners to practise their spoken English while using the new vocabulary. If you use these as speaking activities, students could then write their answers (or their partner's answers) as follow-up. In the answer key, possible answers for these activities are provided by proficient non-native speakers from different parts of the world.

### How can students use the material on their own?

The material has been designed so that it can be used effectively both in the classroom or by learners working alone. If working alone, learners should look at the Starter unit first. For self-study, we recommend that learners use the book alongside the CD-ROM, as it gives them a pronunciation model for every item of vocabulary, as well as further practice exercises. They can check their own answers and use the cover card to test themselves. One advantage of self-study learning is that students can select the topics that interest them, or the topics where they most need to expand their knowledge.

### A How to use a unit

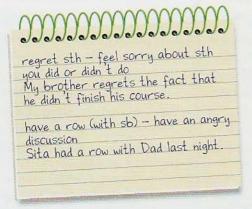


There's more practice in the review units and on the CD-ROM.

### B How to learn new words



 Repeat the words and phrases two or three times to help you remember them.



- Write down new words in a notebook, with the meaning in English or your own language, or draw a picture.
- Write down any other important information about a word or phrase, e.g. words that often go together (a serious relationship) or constructions with verbs (regret the fact that). Write your own example sentences.

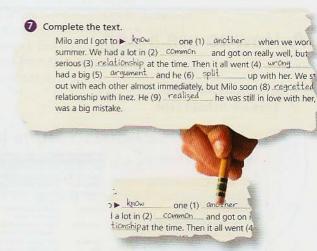
#### Perfect Weekend Channel Five Wednesday 9 p.m. – 11 p.m.

TV drama about a group of young people who got to know one another at university, and now, five years later, get together for a weekend. But things soon go wrong. John doesn't get on with Dan, and now realizes they have nothing in common, while Pete regrets the fact that he split up with Arny, the girl he used to go out with. Now Amy is in a serious relationship with Keith (who didn't go to university), and Keith doesn't like Arny's old friends. This creates tension in the group, and soon there's a big row. Arny falls out with Pete, and Dan and John stop speaking to each other. And that's just the beginning ...

#### Glossary

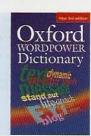
get to know sb mee become friends, one another each o get together (of twe social reason. go wrong used whe situation or relatio realize sth begin to a know before. have nothing in con no interests that a common. regret sth / doing s or didn't de

 Use a highlighter pen to help you remember difficult words.



- Use a pencil for the exercises. Check your answers, then rub them out and do them again a week later.
- You can do the exercises in the review units, or the CD-ROM exercises, after each unit. Or do them a month later to test yourself, perhaps after you've studied all the units in that module (e.g. 'The world around us').
- Look at the vocabulary building tables at the back of the book (page 202).
- Go to the website (www.oup.com/elt/wordskills) for more useful materials and more practice.

Buy a good dictionary for your level. The *Oxford Wordpower Dictionary* (Oxford University Press) is very good for intermediate learners.



# **C** Abbreviations and symbols

N	noun	USU	usually	
V	verb	С	countable noun (A countable noun can be	
ADJ	adjective		used with a/an and can have a plural form.)	
ADV	adverb	U	uncountable noun (An uncountable noun	
OPP	opposite (for example, <i>modest</i> is the opposite of <i>arrogant</i> )	cannot usually be used with <i>a/an</i> and usually has no plural form.)		
SYN	another word; for example, drawback is a		past tense (the past simple form of an irregular verb)	
synonym of disadvantage)	PP	past participle		
INF	informal (If a word or phrase is <b>informal</b> , you use it when you are speaking to friends		something (used in glossaries and tables, e.g. regret sth)	
or people you know well.)		sb	somebody (used in glossaries and tables,	
FML	formal (If a word or phrase is <b>formal</b> , you use it at important and serious times with people you don't know well, or in written English.)		e.g. dismiss sb)	
			used at the end of a list to show there are other things, but you aren't going to say them all	
PL	plural	e.g.	for example (as in: jewellery, e.g. earrings,	
SING			necklace)	

## Vowels

i:	see	/siː/
i	happy	/'hæpi/
I	sit	/sɪt/
e	ten	/ten/
æ	hat	/hæt/
a:	father	/'fa:ðə(r)/
D	got	/gpt/
o:	saw	/sɔ:/
υ	put	/put/
u	casual	/ˈkæʒuəl/
u:	too	/tu:/
Λ	cup	/kʌp/
3:	bird	/b3:d/
Э	about	/əˈbaʊt/
ет	say	/seɪ/
ου	go	/gəʊ/
aı	five	/faɪv/
aυ	now	/naʊ/
OI	boy	/boɪ/
ıə	near	/n19(r)/
eə	hair	/heə(r)/
ບອ	sure	/ʃʊə(r)/

## Consonants

p	pen	/pen/
ь	bad	/bæd/
t	tea	/ti:/
d	did	/dɪd/
k	cat	/kæt/
g	got	/gpt/
t∫	cheap	/tʃiːp/
d3	jam	/dʒæm/
f	fall	/fo:1/
v	verb	/v3 <b>:</b> b/
θ	thin	/θrn/
ð	this	/ðis/
S	SO	/səu/
Z	zero	/vereiz/
ſ	shoe	/ʃuː/
3	television	/'teliviʒn, teli'viʒn/
h	hat	/hæt/
m	map	/mæp/
n	no	/nəʊ/
ŋ	sing	/sɪŋ/
1	leg	/leg/
г	red	/red/
j	yes	/jes/
W	wet	/wet/

# 1 I can talk about vocabulary learning

## A Reading 🕟

#### Tips for reading

When you're reading in a **foreign** language, you should try to get the **gist** of the **text**. You will meet vocabulary you don't **recognize**, but you can often **go through** the text again. If so, try this:

- Identify the new words and phrases which seem to be important. Try to guess the meaning from the context, and/or use a dictionary.
- Keep a record of the words in a notebook, and, if possible, make a note of any special information.
   For example, is the word formal or informal? Is it used in a particular kind of construction, e.g. a verb that is often followed by a preposition?
- Write a translation if you think it helps; sometimes it isn't necessary.

#### spotlight formal

We use **formal** language to appear serious or official, or sometimes when we don't know people well. OPP **informal**. **formality** N. OPP **informality**.

2 Did you understand everything? ~ No, but I got the

5 Did you understand the text? ~ Yes, but can we \_\_\_\_\_

foreign	<ul> <li>from a country that is not your own (a person is a foreigner).</li> </ul>
gist	<ul> <li>SING The gist of sth is the general meaning but not all the details.</li> </ul>
text	<ul> <li>the written part of a book, newspaper, etc.</li> </ul>
recognize sb/sth	<ul> <li>know who sb is or what sth is because you've seen or heard them before. recognition N.</li> </ul>
go through sth	<ul> <li>read sth carefully from beginning to end.</li> </ul>
identify sth	<ul> <li>recognize sth and decide what it is.</li> </ul>
guess sth	<ul> <li>give an answer to sth without being sure of the facts. guess N.</li> </ul>
context	<ul> <li>the words before and after the new word or phrase that help you to understand the meaning.</li> </ul>
keep a record of sth	<ul> <li>write sth down to help you remember it. record sth v.</li> </ul>
make a note of sth	<ul> <li>write sth down quickly to help you remember it.</li> </ul>
construction	the way words are used together in a sentence. construct sth v.
translation	<ul> <li>a text that has been changed from one language into another. translate sth y.</li> </ul>

\_\_through it again?

in my notebook.

<b></b>	I looked at the pictures but didn't understand the written part. Lext	
1	I understood the general meaning of the text.	
2	We couldn't recognize and decide what language they were speaking.	
3	The way you use words together to make a sentence in German is different.	
4	He is from another country.	
5	You can guess the meaning from the words before and after the new word.	
6	There was a text which I had to change from one language into another.	
Cc	omplete the dialogues.	
>	Is 'How do you do' formal ? ~ Yes, we usually just say hello .	
1	Did you know the answer? ~ No, I had to	

everyone? ~ There were one or two people I didn't know.
many \_\_\_\_\_\_? ~ No, all the people were from this country.

of new words? ~ Yes, I keep a \_\_\_

3 Did you ....

4 Were there many \_\_\_\_

6 Do you make a ....

## **B** Speaking and listening



- · In a conversation, you can often ask someone to repeat words or phrases you don't understand, and explain the meaning to you.
- Repeat new words to yourself, so you know how to pronounce them.
- · Look for opportunities to practise them when you're speaking. Don't be afraid to experiment with new language, and don't worry about making mistakes.
- · It's important to revise new vocabulary. If not. you may forget it quite quickly.
- · Remember: there isn't a correct method of learning vocabulary. Do what works for you.

#### conversation, chat, discussion, argument

A conversation is a talk between two or more people. You can also have a chat with sb, which is a friendly informal conversation (chat v). A discussion about sth is when you talk about something seriously (discuss sth v). An argument is a discussion in which people disagree, often angrily.

	GI	ossar	v
--	----	-------	---

repeat sth

· say sth again. repetition N.

explain sth pronounce sth

opportunity

- make sth clear or easy to understand. explanation N. make the sound of a word or letter. pronunciation N.
- - a time when it is possible to do sth that you want to do. syn **chance.**
- experiment with sth
- try sth to see what result it has.
- make mistakes
- · NOT do mistakes.
- revise sth
- study sth again (you do revision).
- method · a way of doing sth.
- get or have the result you want. work
- What nouns are formed from these verbs?
  - ▶ discuss discussion 2 pronounce
- revise ....

1 repeat\_

3 explain \_\_\_

- 4 Circle the correct answer.
  - ▶ If you explain something, you make it easy to say/understand
  - 1 If you revise something, you say it again/study it again.
  - 2 If something works, it is successful/difficult.
  - 3 If you experiment with something, you try something/find something.
  - 4 You can do/make a mistake.
  - 5 A method is an opportunity to do something/a way of doing something.
  - 6 A chat is a formal/an informal conversation.
- Complete the sentences.
  - ▶ We had a <u>conversation</u> on the phone last night.
  - 1 We had a serious \_\_\_\_\_ in class today about politics.
  - 2 My brother's got an \_\_\_\_\_\_ to work in Paris next year. Lucky him.
  - 3 I saw Joelle in town and we had a quick \_\_\_\_\_\_. She told me about the wedding.

  - 5 Do you think we'll have a \_\_\_\_\_ to go shopping when we're in Milan?



Test yourself. Cover the glossary meanings and look at the words. What are the meanings?

# 2 I can describe my progress and aims

# A Making progress

When I started learning English, I was very **enthusiastic** and **motivated**, but I found the pronunciation difficult and people couldn't always understand me. **After a while** my pronunciation **improved** and I was able to **express** basic ideas quite **effectively**. It was **obvious** that I was **getting better**,

and that was very **encouraging**. But at intermediate level, I **made** slower **progress**. There were so many new words and phrases, but also words that I could understand but couldn't use **accurately**. I think I **was** more **aware of** my mistakes, which **was** good – but also **frustrating**.

enthusiastic	<ul> <li>very interested in sth or excited by it. enthusiasm N.</li> </ul>	obvious	<ul><li>easily seen and understood.</li><li>syn clear.</li></ul>
notivated	<ul> <li>If you are motivated, you really want to do sth. motivation N.</li> </ul>	encouraging	<ul> <li>If sth is encouraging, it gives you hope and makes you want</li> </ul>
after a while	• after a period of time.		to continue. <b>encourage</b> v.
improve	<ul> <li>become better, syns get better,</li> </ul>		encouragement N.
	make progress. improvement N.	accurately	<ul> <li>with no mistakes. accurate ADJ.</li> </ul>
express sth	* say or show what you think or feel.	be aware of sth	<ul> <li>If you are aware of sth, you know about it.</li> </ul>
effectively	<ul> <li>in a way that gives you the result you want. effective ADJ.</li> </ul>	frustrating	<ul> <li>making you annoyed because you cannot do sth you want to do. frustration N.</li> </ul>

1 Complete the sentences using the words on the right in the correct form.

•	She did the work very	effectively.	EFFECTIVE
1	He gave me a lot of		ENCOURAGE
2	I think my English is	IMPROVEMENT	
3	My mother speaks En	ACCURATE	
4	It's whe	n you can't understand.	FRUSTRATION
5	He doesn't have much	1	MOTIVATED
6	I was very	when I started.	ENTHUSIASM

- Replace the underlined word or phrase with a word or phrase that has the same meaning.
  - ► She shows lots of <u>interest and excitement</u>. <u>enthusiasm</u>
  - 1 Do you think your English is improving?
  - 2 I didn't worry about my mistakes after a period of time.
  - 3 Where are you making the most <u>improvement?</u>
  - 4 It's clear that he doesn't know the difference between *lend* and *borrow*.
  - 5 She can speak French without mistakes.
  - 6 I think she knows about the problem.
  - 7 I can say most of the things I need to. \_\_\_
  - 8 I make a lot of mistakes, which is annoying.
- Test yourself. Look at the glossary words and cover the meanings. What are the meanings?