

Remembering New Words

So much goes on in our lives. It seems as if there's no room in our heads to add anything new. So what can you do? These tips for remembering new words may help. (You'll need to use a dictionary and a thesaurus.)

Suppose the word that you want to remember is *cantankerous*. It's a great word that exactly describes the neighbor who always growls at you.

■ **Find synonyms**, words that mean the same thing. A great place to find synonyms is in a thesaurus. Two synonyms for *cantankerous* are *irritable* and *cranky*.

■ **Make a connection.** Suppose your neighbor's name is Carl. That name and *cantankerous* both start with the letter c. See?

■ **Think of an antonym**, a word that means the opposite of the one you're trying to remember. *Mellow* is an antonym for *cantankerous*.

■ **Make up a sentence** that pulls all the words together.

OK, here goes:

Carl can be cantankerous at times, unbelievably irritable and cranky, but at other times he's downright mellow.

TRY THIS

1. Think of three words that you have heard or read but don't know what they mean. Try to look them up in a dictionary or thesaurus. Come up with a synonym (a word that means the same) and an antonym (a word that means the opposite). Fill in the chart below. We've done one to get you started.

New Word	Synonym	Antonym
a. extraordinary	unusual	ordinary
b. _____	_____	_____
c. _____	_____	_____
d. _____	_____	_____

2. Now use each of your words in a sentence.

a. Because the test was in one week, he spent an extraordinary amount of time studying.

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____
