

Vocab Expansion #1

Difficulty Level: ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

Let's examine five new words to help expand our ever-growing vocabulary. Examine the new words and answer the questions to the best of your ability using full sentences.

Spot-on:

Adj. Means to be completely accurate; exactly right; correct.

"He's usually spot-on about picking movies. The last three movie's we watched were all really good."

"It's impossible to be spot-on when predicting the stock market."

"That sales clerk was really impressive. She was spot-on about this sweater suiting my style."

Questions: Please use full sentences when answering the questions.

- 1.) Have you ever been spot-on about something? Tell me about it.
- 2.) Is your partner good at knowing how you really feel? Can he tell if something is bothering you?
- 3.) How can you tell if a movie is worth seeing? Are you spot-on about your predictions or not?

"In the meantime":

The period of time between two things; while you are waiting. We can also use the word "meanwhile".

"My new camera didn't arrive yet. So, in the meantime I've been taking pictures with my brother's old camera."

"I still haven't heard back from the company I applied for. In the meantime, I've been searching for other job opening online."

"It feels like everyone is enjoying life. Meanwhile, I'm here stuck studying English."

Questions: Please use full sentences when answering the questions.

- 1.) How do you pass time while waiting for your friends?
- 2.) Is there anything you are really looking forward to doing or accomplishing in your future?
- 3.) Create an example sentence using in the meantime.

Constantly:

Adverb; all the time; something that is always happening.

"She is constantly running late."

"I'm constantly searching for good deals when it comes to shopping because I'm trying to save money."

Ever since I had surgery I am in constant pain.

Questions: Please use full sentences when answering the questions.

- 1.) Do you have any daily habits? What are they?
- 2.) What is something that is constantly on your mind?
- 3.) What is something you constantly do subconsciously?
- 4.) Create an example sentence using constantly.

Reconcile:

Verb; To become friends again; to come to peace. In informal English we use the phrase "to make up".

"My girlfriend and her father stop talking several years ago. They never reconciled."

"My boyfriend and I usually argue once a week. However, we almost always make up in a few days."

She couldn't reconcile the idea that not everyone had good intentions.

Questions: Please use full sentences when answering the questions.

- 1.) How do you solve disputes with family members and friends in your culture?
- 2.) Is it difficult for you to say sorry after you have wronged someone?
- 3.) Do you have any friendships that you never managed to reconcile? Why is that?
- 4.) Create an example sentence using the word reconcile.

Justify:

Verb; To prove to be right; To show reason why you did something.

I can't justify spending \$1000 on a handbag.

He quit his job last week. He justified his actions by saying he doesn't need the money anymore.

I can't justify the death penalty for murder. However, I can justify a life sentence.

Questions: Please use full sentences when answering the questions.

- 1.) How do you justify making big unnecessary purchases?
- 2.) Do you think the death penalty should be illegal or legal?
- 3.) How do you justify when it is time to go for a vacation?
- 4.) Create an example sentence using justify.

Tips:

- 1.) Many ESL students use "always" too much. Try using constantly instead.
- 2.) "In the meantime" is very common in spoken English. We use it to let someone know it's okay to wait for him or her. For example, "Take your time shopping. I'll enjoy a coffee in the meantime."

Match:

Match the words from column 1 with the best-suited answer from column 2.

Column 1	Column 2
1.) spot-on	a.) while I wait
2.) in the meantime	b.) make peace
3.) constantly	c.) explain
4.) reconcile	d.) persistently
5.) justify	e.) exactly right

Daily Expressions, Phrasal Verbs & Idioms:

- 1.) **"Go ahead"**: Means to continue and finish what you were doing or saying.

"I'm sorry for interrupting. Please go ahead and finish your story."

2.) "The joke's on him": Is a an expression we say when someone tries to play a trick on us but it backfires and makes him look silly instead.

"He left before paying the bill, but the joke is on him, because I have his credit card."