

Learning Strategy – Strategies that Help Comprehension of Unknown Words in Texts

If you see a word in a text that you don't know, wait before you look it up. First, try to find out the meaning on your own. There are several strategies that can help you do this.

- **Strategy 1:**

If you come upon an unknown word in a text, you should try to answer this question first: **do I need to understand the word to understand the text?** If no, continue reading. If yes, then try one of the following strategies.

- **Strategy 2:**

Try to guess the meaning of the word from the **context**. The context will give you plenty of information about the word, e.g.:

*Sie kaufte im Geschäft eine rote **Esoh**. Die **Esoh** war ihr etwas zu lang, aber sie hatte nur 15 € gekostet.*

An '**Esoh**' has to be a noun and it must be a feminine noun. An '**Esoh**' can be bought and worn. (Esoh = Hose)

- **Strategy 3:**

Is the unknown word an **internationalism**? Consider whether a similar word exists in your native language or another language that you speak.

German	English	French	Spanish
<i>Sport</i>	<i>sport</i>	<i>sport</i>	<i>deporte</i>

- **Strategy 4:**

If the unknown word is made up of two or more individual words, consider whether you can decipher the meaning from its individual components. For example, if you know the words *Milch* and *Flasche*, then you can understand the **compound word** *Milchflasche*.

- **Strategy 5:**

Consider whether the unknown word is a **derivation** of a word you know. Utilize your knowledge of derivations. This is how you can understand the word *Wortbildungskennntnisse* if you know the words *Wortbildung* and *kennen*.

- **Strategy 6:**

Only after unsuccessfully using strategies 1 to 5 should you look the word up in a dictionary.