



Sample Vocabulary

These vocabulary exemplars came from *Arts & Letters*[™], an ELA curriculum. They show how vocabulary can grow across grade levels, from simple word use to more complex language. Each list comes from a module that contains the term *community*.

If you use another ELA program, this resource can still give you ideas. It shows how vocabulary connects to reading, writing, and speaking across grades.



Vocabulary

aware (adj.)

knowing and understanding a lot about what is happening in the world or around you

lesson 10

central (adj.)

main or most important

lesson 5

character (n.)

a person or creature in a story

lesson 13

chart (n.)

information organized into rows and columns

lesson 9

discover (v.)

to find or become aware of something for the first time

lesson 27



experience (v.)

to do, to see, or to feel something

lesson 2



explore (v.)

to examine something in a careful way to learn more about it

lesson 4

extraordinary (adj.)

extremely good

lesson 25



fumes (n.)

smoke or gas that smells bad

lesson 26

hearing (n.)

the sense people experience with their ears

lesson 17



heritage (n.)

beliefs, stories, and skills that come from a person's background or culture

lesson 31

imagine (v.)

to think or create something in your mind

lesson 14

joy (n.)

a feeling of great happiness

lesson 20

key details

the most important pieces of information that support the main topic

lesson 8

main topic

what a book or a section of a book is mostly about

lesson 8

notice (v.)

to become aware of someone or something

lesson 2

repeat (v.)

to make or do something again

lesson 19

rhythm (n.)

a regular, repeated pattern of sounds or movements

lesson 19



senses (n.)

the ways through which the body receives information about the world around you, such as touch, taste, smell, sight, and hearing

lesson 1



setting (n.)

when and where a story takes place

lesson 18

sight (n.)

the sense people experience with their eyes

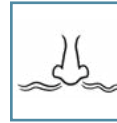
lesson 12



smell (n.)

the sense people experience with their nose

lesson 24



subway (n.)

a system of underground trains in a city

lesson 25

symbol (n.)

an object or picture that represents (shows) an idea

lesson 32

taste (n.)

the sense people experience with their tongue

lesson 29



touch (n.)

the sense people experience with their skin

lesson 29



treasure (n.)

something that is very special

lesson 3

underground (adj.)

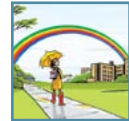
located below the surface of the earth

lesson 25

witness (n.)

someone who sees something

lesson 15



Vocabulary

bison (n.)

a large, hairy wild animal that has a big head and short horns

lesson 8



challenge (n.)

a difficult task or problem; something that is hard to do

lesson 18



collective noun

a word that names a group of people, animals, or things

lesson 15

community (n.)

a group of people who live in the same area or have something in common

lesson 28



culture (n.)

the shared beliefs, traditions, language, and way of life of a particular group of people

lesson 27

displace (v.)

to force people or animals to leave the area where they live

lesson 21

evidence (n.)

information from the text that supports the focus sentence

lesson 11

government (n.)

the group of people who control and make decisions for a country, nation, or state

lesson 23



homestead (n.)

a piece of government land that a person could acquire by living on it and farming it when the western part of the United States was being settled

lesson 16



interdependent (adj.)

related in such a way that each group depends on or needs the other

lesson 24



nation (n.)

a group of people united under a common history, government, culture, or language who are from a certain country or area of land

lesson 7



opportunity (n.)

an amount of time or a situation in which something can be done

lesson 16



prairie (n.)

a large, mostly flat area of grassland in North America with few trees

lesson 23



preserve (v.)

to keep something safe from harm or loss

lesson 23



relationship (n.)

the way in which two or more people, animals, or objects relate to or connect with one another

lesson 24

reservation (n.)

an area of land in the United States that is kept separate as a place for Native Americans to live

lesson 5

settler (n.)

a person who moves to a new country or area that is usually not occupied by other people

lesson 16



tradition (n.)

a way of thinking, behaving, or acting that has been shared by a group of people for a long time

lesson 28



treaty (n.)

an official agreement that is made between two or more countries or groups

lesson 23

Vocabulary

biography (n.)

a piece of writing about a real person's life, written by someone else

lesson 11



the blues

1. a feeling of sadness or melancholy; depression
2. a style of music that was created by African American musicians in the southern United States to express a range of feelings, from sadness and heartbreak to hope and joy



lesson 6

community (n.)

1. a group of people who live in the same area
2. a group of people who have the same interests, religion, race, or culture



lesson 9

credible (adj.)

able to be believed; reasonable to trust or believe

lesson 10

drawl (n.)

to speak slowly with vowel sounds that are longer than usual

lesson 9

influence

1. (n.) the power to change or affect someone or something
2. (v.) to affect someone or something in an important way



lesson 6

migrate (v.)

to move from one country or place to live or work in another

lesson 5



momentum (n.)

the strength or force that allows something to continue or to grow stronger or faster as time passes

lesson 4

mood (n.)

the emotion or feeling often expressed in a work of art

lesson 5

movement (n.)

1. a principle of design
2. the sense of motion or stillness in a work of art

lesson 4

namesake (n.)

someone or something that has the same name as another person or thing

lesson 11



poetry (n.)

a type of literature written in separate lines that appeals to a reader's emotions or imagination, often by using figurative language and repeated rhythm and rhyme

lesson 1

**relevant (adj.)**

relating to a subject in an appropriate way

lesson 9

renaissance (n.)

a period of increased intellectual or artistic activity

lesson 2

**research**

1. (n.) careful study or activity to find and report new knowledge about a subject
2. (v.) to collect more information about a subject

lesson 8

**synthesize (v.)**

to combine (things) in order to make something new

lesson 14

verse (n.)

writing in which words are arranged in a rhythmic pattern

lesson 25

Vocabulary

achievement (n.)

something that has been done or achieved through effort; a result of hard work

lesson 7

action beat

a phrase that tells what a character is doing before, during, or after they speak

lesson 19

adversity (n.)

a difficult situation or condition; misfortune or tragedy



lesson 14

articulation (n.)

careful emphasis on particular words to emphasize meaning, all words pronounced correctly and audibly

lesson 28

community (n.)

1. a feeling of wanting to be with other people or of caring about the other people in a group
2. a group of people who live in the same area, such as a city, town, or neighborhood

lesson 20

composition (n.)

in a work of art, how an artist organizes all the elements of art

lesson 8

connect (v.)

to join (two or more things) together

lesson 22

demeanor (n.)

the way one presents themselves while reading (tone, facial expressions, eye contact, posture, etc.)

lesson 28

depression (n.)

a period of time in which there is little economic activity and many people do not have jobs

lesson 2



devastating (adj.)

causing great damage or harm

lesson 3



economy (n.)

the process or system by which people produce, sell, and buy goods and services in a country or region

lesson 2



elation (n.)

a feeling of happiness or excitement

lesson 6

extended metaphor

a metaphor that is developed in detail over multiple sections of a literary work

lesson 31

hardship (n.)

pain and suffering

lesson 1

**imagery (n.)**

language that causes people to imagine pictures in their mind

lesson 27

intensive pronoun

a pronoun in the reflexive form used for emphasis

lesson 18

jitterbug (n.)

a very lively type of dance from the 1940s

lesson 5

juke joint

a cheap bar or club that has a jukebox

lesson 5

juxtapose (v.)

to place different things together in order to create an interesting effect or to show how they are the same or different

lesson 6

levity (n.)

a lack of seriousness; an amusing quality

lesson 23

**metaphor (n.)**

a phrase that shows how two things are similar by saying one thing is the other

lesson 15

migrate (v.)

to move from one country or place to live or work in another

lesson 8

**misery (n.)**

extreme suffering or unhappiness

lesson 6

motivation (n.)

a force or influence that causes someone to do something

lesson 14

perseverance (n.)

the quality that allows someone to continue trying to do something even though it is difficult

lesson 1

**pronoun (n.)**

a word that is used instead of a noun or noun phrase

lesson 4

resilience (n.)

the ability to become strong, healthy, or successful again after something bad happens

lesson 14

**style (n.)**

a particular way in which something is done, created, or performed

lesson 33

theme (n.)

a universal idea or message conveyed by a literary text

lesson 32

tone (n.)

the author's attitude toward the subject, as conveyed by the words the author chooses

lesson 33

transient (adj.)

staying somewhere only a short time



lesson 18