

There are many ways to build vocabulary. They include the following:

- Use a dictionary to look up pronunciation, part of speech, and definition.
- Use context clues to make an educated guess about the words meaning.
- Substitute like words to see if the term's meaning makes sense.
- Make the new terms yours by writing a sentence with each one.
- Practice using your new vocabulary in your everyday life.

Practice building vocabulary with the exercises below:

Gossip is the act of talking about other people's business. The talk is malicious. The gossip's intentions are malevolent. Sometimes people gossip as a means to make themselves feel better about themselves. Gossip topics include family members, social status, what people have and what they do not have, appearances, and personal lifestyle choices. Spiteful words tossed about others are meant to be acerbic. The result is tactless, and it hurts feelings. Gossip sometimes mars the reputation of the victim.

Fill in the information to complete the chart.

Term	Part of speech	Definition
malicious		
malevolent		
spiteful		
acerbic		
tactless		
mars		
reputation		

Use each term in a sentence of your own.

1. malicious

---

---

2. malevolent

---

---

3. spiteful

---

---

4. tactless

---

---

5. mars (verb)

---

---

Use the words in the workbox below to fill in the blanks.

jar	etiquette	pleasant	invasive	obnoxious
cackling	infringement	chatter	facet	implicit

Phone manners used to be a \_\_\_\_\_ of every person's \_\_\_\_\_ training. No one defied the \_\_\_\_\_ rule of not calling during dinner or after nine o'clock. The caller always identified himself and inquired about the possibility of speaking with a certain person. Today, cell phones have created disruption and disturbances in places that have never experienced such \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have taken over the once quiet parks. Odd ring tones \_\_\_\_\_ one upright, for these \_\_\_\_\_ noises indicate one is not left his own thoughts.