

# Lesson Skill: Learning vocabulary by using reference materials

---

## **Strand** Reading--vocabulary

**SOL** 6.4  
7.4  
8.4

## **Materials**

- Copies of the two attached Reference Material Scavenger Hunt worksheets
- Online or hard copy dictionaries
- Online or hard copy thesauruses

## **Lesson**

Before undertaking this lesson, prepare a list of seven words drawn from a text soon to be read in class. Write the selected words on the blank Reference Material Scavenger Hunt worksheet before making copies for the students.

1. Distribute copies of the partially completed Reference Material Scavenger Hunt worksheet, and lead the class in completing it by filling in the blanks as required. Model using a dictionary and a thesaurus, as needed.
2. Distribute copies of the Reference Material Scavenger Hunt worksheet containing the seven words you selected out of the text to be read. Group the students into teams, and have each team complete the worksheet, going on a “scavenger hunt” in dictionaries and thesauruses as needed to fill in the blanks. Make sure each student completes his/her own personal worksheet with the data gathered by the team.
3. Have the first team that finishes read the information they listed on their worksheets to the rest of the class. Encourage other teams to challenge the information read if the information they found is different.
4. Encourage students to use the completed worksheet as a vocabulary reference while reading the text from which the words came.

### Reference Material Scavenger Hunt

<b>WORD:</b> <i>exhaust</i>	<b>Part of speech:</b> transitive verb	<b>Definition:</b> Empty completely, use up, consume
<b>Synonym:</b>	<b>Language of derivation:</b>	<b>Sentence:</b>
<b>WORD:</b> <i>exhort</i>	<b>Part of speech:</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Urge strongly, advise or warn earnestly
<b>Synonym:</b>	<b>Language of derivation:</b> Latin <ex + hortari = urge strongly	<b>Sentence:</b>
<b>WORD:</b> <i>gravitate</i>	<b>Part of speech:</b> intransitive verb	<b>Definition:</b>
<b>Synonym:</b>	<b>Language of derivation:</b>	<b>Sentence:</b> The sand and dirt in the water <i>gravitate</i> to the bottom of the bottle.
<b>WORD:</b> <i>ken</i>	<b>Part of speech:</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Range of knowledge
<b>Synonym:</b> <i>understanding</i>	<b>Language of derivation:</b>	<b>Sentence:</b>
<b>WORD::</b> <i>merit</i>	<b>Part of speech:</b>	<b>Definition:</b>
<b>Synonym:</b> <i>quality</i>	<b>Language of derivation:</b>	<b>Sentence:</b> You will be marked according to the <i>merit</i> of your work.
<b>WORD:</b> <i>nonentity</i>	<b>Part of speech:</b> noun	<b>Definition:</b> Person or thing of little or no importance
<b>Synonym:</b>	<b>Language of derivation:</b>	<b>Sentence:</b>
<b>WORD:</b> <i>pretense</i>	<b>Part of speech:</b>	<b>Definition:</b>
<b>Synonym:</b>	<b>Language of derivation:</b> Latin < praetendere	<b>Sentence:</b> Her manner is free from <i>pretense</i> .



