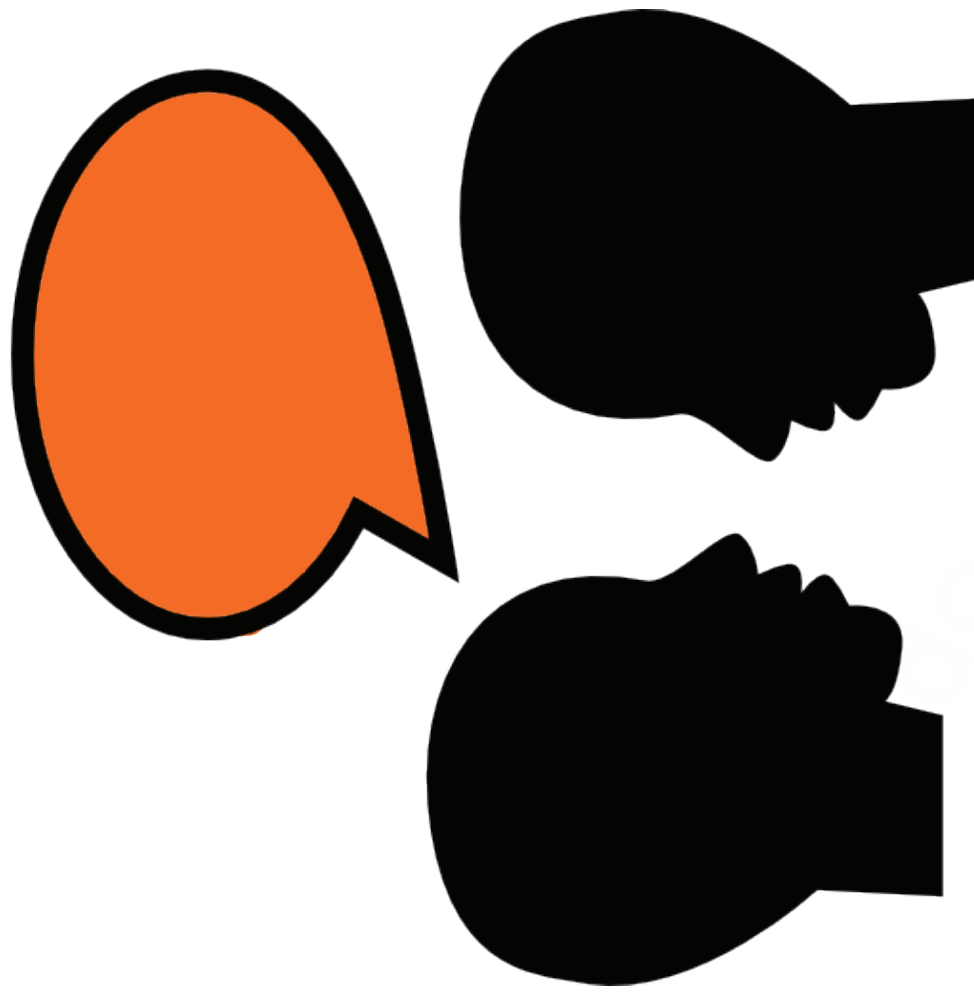


bedrock learning

talking prompts

block 4 - 6



# How can I support my child at home?

## Get involved!

Parental involvement increases student motivation, achievement and attainment. Simply by reading this guide and understanding how, what and why your child is being taught at school you are better placed to help your child make further progress at home.

## Talk to your children about the world around them.

Start by discussing your child's interests with them. They are constantly learning about the world around them and making meanings for themselves. Help them to articulate their thoughts and feelings about what is going on around them. The first step to supporting your child is enabling them to have frequent conversations with adults. This will increase the likelihood of them being exposed to tier 2 words. Tier 2 words are the type of words your child will come across in curriculum texts and is the sort of academic language they will need to know to succeed at school.

By 'putting things into words' (Lipstein and Renninger, 2007) verbally, your child will grow in confidence, particularly in literacy.

The influence of interaction with adults for children's development proves to be highly positive in not only broadening their vocabulary, but also preparing them for later life experiences (Gladwell, 2008).

Parents play a key role in their child's language acquisition, literacy development and confidence. Language exposure through parental talk can have a profound impact on educational outcomes (Hart and Risley, 2003).





# How to use the Bedrock Talking Prompts

Here is how you can get the conversation started...

- The Bedrock Talking Prompts are a series of questions designed to encourage students to use the tier 2 words they are learning in their online vocabulary lessons in everyday conversation.
- Find a quiet place where both of you will be comfortable, perhaps your kitchen table? Or on the settee (make sure you don't leave the TV on!).
- Log in to your Bedrock parent account. Use your dashboard to see which Block and Topic your child is currently working through on Bedrock. We recommend starting with the prompts for the Block your child is currently working through.
- Take your time with each question. Remember, they are just prompts. Feel free to probe further for specific details and explanations.
- To improve their literacy, your child should always respond in full sentences, adding detail and explanations at every stage. Above all, make sure they use the target word in their response!
- Give your child as much time as they need to respond. Your child will need to stop and think about how they will respond. This is fine. They aren't being timed! A slow, reflective and well considered response is far better than a rushed, short and undeveloped one.
- Feel free to discuss how you would respond to each question with your child. Even if they don't always show it, they are usually interested to hear more about your thoughts and life experiences. Needless to say, the more times we can get them to listen to and use tier 2 vocabulary, the better!



# Block 4 - Topic 1: The Vikings

**Lesson 1**  
**Ancient** - Why do you think the gods were so important for people in ancient times?  
**Bold** - There are plenty of times at school when you have to conquer your fears and be bold. When was the last time you had to be bold?  
**Fierce**- Animals in the wild have to be fierce in order to survive. If you could create your own fierce and wild animal, what would it look, behave and sound like?

**Lesson 2**  
**Ambition** - Ambitions are like dreams, they are what you hope to achieve and accomplish. What are your three main ambitions for this year?  
**Journey**- Whether it is a long train journey or a short car journey, some journeys are more memorable than others. What is your most memorable journey and why?  
**Launch** - The first rocket was launched into space in 1957. If you were an astronaut, what would you need for a successful launch?

**Lesson 3**  
**Border** - What country do you live in? What other countries border you?  
**Coast** - Where is the nearest coast to you?  
**Continent** - Are you able to name the 7 continents? Which continent do you live in? Would you be able to find it on a globe?





















































**Lesson 4**  
**Capture** - Taking a photograph enables you to capture a moment in time, and keep it forever. Has there ever been a time that you wished you'd had your camera/ phone to capture a moment? When was it? Why did you want to remember it forever?  
**Deed** - What is the kindest deed anyone has ever done for you?  
**Fatal** - You are in the final two minutes of a football game, what fatal mistake could you make that might lose your team the game?

**Lesson 5**  
**Advantage** - What are the advantages of working hard at school?  
**Misery** - What can you do each day to make your classmates feel confident and to prevent misery?  
**Triumph** - You are competing in a 'spelling bee' at school, what could you do to make sure you triumph over the other competitors?

**Lesson 6**  
**Grasp** - You learn all sorts of new things each day. What new things have you grasped in the last week?  
**Magnificent** - Musicians will often sing in magnificent settings to bring their music alive. What makes a song you like magnificent? If you were to perform it where would you perform and why?  
**Swift** - Some people have an incredible knack of doing chores at home very quickly. Which chores are you most swift at and why?

date

ability

# Block 4 - Topic 2: The Cycle of Life

**Lesson 7**  
**Arrange** - At break time at school lots of clubs, activities and sports are arranged. If you were to arrange a school group what would it be, where would you hold it and why?  
**Harsh** - If someone makes harsh comments, what is the best way to respond and why?  
**Process** - A process is the way something is done. What is your favourite meal? What is the process of making it (step by step)?

date

ability



**Lesson 8**  
**Absorb** - You absorb information everyday (like a sponge). What new information have you absorbed this week?  
**Moisture** - After a bath lots of people moisturise. What do you think might be the advantages of this?  
**Nectar** - How is the nectar of plants spread in nature? (birds, bees, butterflies etc.)



**Lesson 9**  
**Attract** - Which sides of magnets are attracted to one another?  
**Digest** - How long does it take on average to digest food? Why do you think that is? (After you eat, it takes about six to eight hours for food to pass through your stomach and small intestine.)  
**Resident** - There are lots of different places people can live and be resident. How many different places of residence can you think of? (flat, house, bungalow, cottage, mansion, caravan etc.)



**Lesson 10**  
**Cling** - When we are little we cling to things that are very special to us. What teddy or toy did you use to cling to and why?  
**Locate** - We all lose things occasionally. When you lose something special, how do you locate it?  
**Risk** - There is risk in everything we do. When people play sport how do they prepare for the risks involved? (e.g. if you play football you should wear shin pads and keep your eye on the ball!)



**Lesson 11**  
**Method** - Whenever you do an experiment in Science there is always a clear method. Can you list some key science equipment often used in the method? (beaker, retort stand, Bunsen burner etc.)  
**Predator** - Predators hunt prey in the wild. Which three different predators combined would make the ultimate predator and why? (you could choose from hyenas, lions, bears, sharks, eagles etc.)  
**Starve** - If you hadn't eaten for a day, describe your ideal meal to prevent (stop) you from starving?



**Lesson 12**  
**Contain** - What does your pencil case contain at the beginning of term?  
**Decay** - How long should you brush your teeth for to prevent (stop) decay?  
**Gradually** - When things happen slowly but surely, they happen gradually. How could you gradually learn new words over a long period of time?



# Block 4 - Topic 3:

King Midas and The Golden Touch

## Lesson 18

**Privilege** - Some schools have class monitors or prefects. What privileges do you think they should have?

**Revive** - First thing in the morning, what do you do to revive yourself after a long night's sleep?

**Wisdom** - What wisdom would you share with other students starting school to help them feel prepared?

## Lesson 17

**Gasp** - We learn lots of fascinating facts at school each year. What has made you gasp in amazement recently?

**Nursery** - What are the main differences between school and nursery?

**Prevent** - When it is raining outside, what could you wear or carry to prevent getting wet?

## Lesson 16

**Crumple** - When you have used up a piece of paper, do you crumple it up or use it again as scrap paper? Why?

**Spoil** - Not many things can spoil a picnic, but kind of weather could spoil one?

**Thrill** - When was the last time you were thrilled to be a part of something?

## Lesson 15

**Attitude** - If you find something difficult, what is the best attitude to approach it with?

**Fortunate** - What three things in your life make you feel fortunate?

**Intend** - What do you intend on doing at the weekend?

## Lesson 14

**Accuse**- Has anyone ever accused you of doing something you didn't do? How did you react?

**Confess** - When you have made a mistake, is it best to confess to it or pretend it didn't happen? Why?

**Doze** - At bedtime, what helps you to doze off?

## Lesson 13

**Elegant** - Ballet dancers are often said to move elegantly. How else could you describe their elegant moves?

**Globe** - If you could go anywhere on the globe, where would you go and why?

**Treasure** - If you buried some treasure for people in the distant future to discover, what would it be and why?

date

ability



# Block 5 - Topic 1: The Wild West!

## Lesson 6

**Develop** - We are always growing and developing. What are your main talents? How do you develop them?  
**Epic** - Describe the most epic day of your life...  
**Shabby** - What is your morning routine to make sure you don't look too shabby when you arrive at the school gates?



## Lesson 5

**Afford** - Sometimes we can't afford what we want. Has there ever been a time you have saved money over a long period of time? What did you save for?  
**Desire** - What are your three greatest wishes and desires?  
**Ownership** - Can you remember what the first thing you owned was? It may have been your favourite t-shirt, a bicycle, or a teddy bear? Whatever it was, describe what ownership of that object felt like...



## Lesson 4

**Arrest** - Your English teacher might ask you to begin a creative story with an arresting sentence. Can you think of an opening to a Gothic story that would stop the reader in their tracks?  
**Frequent** - It is important to exercise regularly. How frequently do you exercise? What is your favourite form of exercise?  
**Limb** - 'To go out on a limb' means to put yourself out there, often for someone else. When have you gone the extra mile for someone else?



## Lesson 3

**Annual** - Can you list all the annual events in your local community? Why do you think we have annual events?  
**Baggage** - What are your essential baggage items and why?  
**Basic** - What are the basic things you can do to keep healthy?



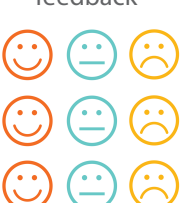
## Lesson 2

**Attempt** - What is the main message of the well known saying about attempts, 'if at first you don't succeed, try, try, try again'?  
**Proceed** - Charities help those in need, if you could give proceeds to charity, which charity would you choose and why?  
**Teeming** - Do you have a local river, pond or lake? If so, what time of year is it most teeming with wildlife? Why is this do you think this is?



## Lesson 1

**Century** - Were you born in the same century as your parents and grandparents? What do you think might have been different in the last century?  
**Folklore** - The folklore of Robin Hood, stealing from the rich to give to the poor comes from Nottingham in the UK. Is there any folklore from your local area or where your family lives which has been passed down from generation to generation?  
**Frontier** - Nowadays the new frontier of technology refers to A.I (artificial intelligence) and robots. 70 years ago, what was at the frontier of technology?



date

feedback




































# Block 5 - Topic 2: Sky Woman: A Creation Myth!

Lesson 7	<p><b>Curiously</b> - Curiously, some animals sleep during the day, whilst being active at night. Can you think of any nocturnal animals? Why do you think they might be nocturnal? (bats, badgers, mice, owls- mainly to hunt)</p> <p><b>Reveal</b> - What do clothes reveal about a person’s personality?</p> <p><b>Source</b> - When you are completing work, what is your main source of information?</p>
Lesson 8	<p><b>Grief</b> - How might different people grieve lost pets? Why?</p> <p><b>Peer</b> - Who is in your peer group? How do you get along?</p> <p><b>Wrench</b> - If you wrench your foot, how long do you think you should rest for and why?</p>
Lesson 9	<p><b>Exponentially</b> - The more you read, the more your reading skills are set to improve exponentially. What books are you reading at the moment to help you?</p> <p><b>Lack</b> - A lack of sleep can have a terrible effect on your health. What time do you go to sleep? What is your bedtime routine?</p> <p><b>Surface</b> - How someone looks on the surface doesn’t always reflect how they feel on the inside. Why do you think this is?</p>
Lesson 10	<p><b>Ascended</b> - When a character in a film ascends a grand staircase with the camera facing upwards, why does it make them appear more powerful?</p> <p><b>Displeasure</b> - Why might a teacher treat misbehaviour with displeasure?</p> <p><b>Sustain</b> - When you have a long day, what’s the best way to sustain your energy?</p>
Lesson 11	<p><b>Adamant</b> - Why might your teacher be adamant that everyone takes it in turns to speak in class?</p> <p><b>Callous</b> - If someone is rude and callous, what is the best way to respond? Why?</p> <p><b>Complete</b> - When you’ve completed a task in class, should you ask for an extension or mess around? Which do you think will help you in the long run?</p>
Lesson 12	<p><b>Conquer</b> - What are your biggest fears? How could you conquer them?</p> <p><b>Destructive</b> - What destructive impact could a flood have on a community?</p> <p><b>Vexed</b> - When you become vexed and angry about something, what is a good way to calm down?</p>

date

feedback

# Block 5 - Topic 3: Gladiators!






















































<b>Lesson 13</b>	<p><b>Extraordinary</b> - Describe the most extraordinary trip you've been on...</p> <p><b>Response</b> - When you are having a conversation, how can you show someone that you are clearly listening to their responses?</p> <p><b>Tragic</b> - Can you think of a film or a book with a tragic ending? What happens?</p>
<b>Lesson 14</b>	<p><b>Eager</b> - How can you show your teacher you are eager to learn about a particular topic?</p> <p><b>Master</b> - If you want to master a new skill, what do you need to do?</p> <p><b>Release</b> - When you are released from school this summer, what is the first thing you will do?</p>
<b>Lesson 15</b>	<p><b>Arena</b> - Imagine a sports arena crowded full of cheering spectators, what do you think this atmosphere you be like?</p> <p><b>Chambers</b> - The long dark corridors to chambers were eerie, scary and unsettling. Can you think of other scenarios or scenes which create a similar feeling?</p> <p><b>Practice</b> - To improve any skill you need to practise. What skills are you practising at school at the moment?</p>
<b>Lesson 16</b>	<p><b>Alert</b> - When you are looking after pets you have to be alert and care for their needs. What needs might they have?</p> <p><b>Concentrate</b> - When you lose concentration in class, how do you refocus?</p> <p><b>Flexible</b> - When you work in a group you have to be flexible, how can you make joint decisions together?</p>
<b>Lesson 17</b>	<p><b>Concern</b> - How do you show concern for your friends?</p> <p><b>Focus</b> - What is your main focus outside of school? Why?</p> <p><b>Furious</b> - Can you remember a time when you were furious? What had made you so furious</p>
<b>Lesson 18</b>	<p><b>Congratulate</b> - When people succeed at school, how do you congratulate them?</p> <p><b>Hail</b> - What season do you usually get hail? What's your favourite season and why? If you could hail a taxi and ask it to take you anywhere in your country, where would you go?</p> <p><b>Survive</b> - If you had to survive a night in the wild, what would you take with you and why?</p>

date

feedback

# Block 6 - Topic 1: Journey to the Pole

	date	feedback
<b>Lesson 1</b> <b>Accomplish</b> - What do you hope to accomplish by the end of this academic year? <b>Document</b> - If you kept a diary to document your thoughts and feelings about today, what would you write and why? <b>Wilderness</b> - Bear Grylls is a famous adventurer. What does he need to survive in the wilderness? (These may include: a waterproof bag, first aid kit, compass, matches, a torch, a rope, a swiss army knife)		        
<b>Lesson 2</b> <b>Companion</b> - We all need companions to keep us from being lonely. Who is your most treasured companion? <b>Navigate</b> - On your first day of school you must have overcome lots of feelings (perhaps fear, nerves and excitement all at once). How did you navigate your first day of school? <b>Uneasy</b> - There are certain things that make us feel uneasy, whether it be a rollercoaster ride or public speaking. What makes you feel uneasy and why?		        
<b>Lesson 3</b> <b>Endanger</b> - When you cross the road, it is best to look both left and right in order to not endanger yourself. What other helpful tips to keep safe can you think of? <b>Portable</b> - Portable speakers can be really good fun, if you want to share your music with your friends. What three songs would you play through portable speakers? <b>Preserve</b> - Different food has to be kept good and preserved in different ways. Can you think of all the different ways we preserve food?		        
<b>Lesson 4</b> <b>Achievement</b> - What are your three greatest achievements in your life so far? <b>Character</b> - What are three best character traits? <b>Strategy</b> - When you are playing a team game, what is the best way of planning a strategy?		        
<b>Lesson 5</b> <b>Dedicate</b> - How much time do you dedicate to homework, why do you think it's important? <b>Deprive</b> - What one thing could you not survive without? What would you hate to be deprived of? <b>Sluggish</b> - If you are feeling sluggish, what could you do to make yourself feel better?		        
<b>Lesson 6</b> <b>Blizzard</b> - When there is a blizzard outside, what do you think is the safest way of getting around? <b>Frigid</b> - In the winter, pond water goes frigid, why is it more dangerous to fall in frigid water than lukewarm water? <b>Perish</b> - What are the warmest items of clothing to avoid perishing in the winter?		        

date

feedback





# Block 6 - Topic 2: The Lives of the Wives of Henry VIII

<b>Lesson 7</b>	<p><b>Monarch</b> - What is the name of the monarch in the UK?</p> <p><b>Provide</b> - When your friends need your help and support, how do you provide it for them?</p> <p><b>Reign</b> - In 2012 Queen Elizabeth II had reigned over the UK for 60 years. If you were Queen for 60 year what would want to have done for your country?</p>
<b>Lesson 8</b>	<p><b>Debate</b> - It is important to consider the arguments 'for' and 'against' in a debate. What are the arguments 'for' and 'against' having a school uniform?</p> <p><b>Independent</b> - Teachers often want their students to work independently, what are the advantages of working on your own sometimes?</p> <p><b>Overthrow</b> - In the past, what did rulers do to overthrow those that came before them? (military coups, assassination, protests etc.)?</p>
<b>Lesson 9</b>	<p><b>Abolish</b> - To move successfully into the future, countries need to abolish outdated traditions. If you could abolish any tradition at school or in your local community what would it be and why?</p> <p><b>Senseless</b> - No one likes senseless violence to settle a disagreement. How else can you address differences of opinion?</p> <p><b>Sever</b> - Sometimes people fall out with each other and sever all ties between them, which means they don't make any contact anymore. What would force you to sever ties with a friend?</p>
<b>Lesson 10</b>	<p><b>Bland</b> - What spices and herbs can you add to food to stop it from being bland? What is your favourite food and why?</p> <p><b>Compassion</b> - How can you show compassion to your family and friends?</p> <p><b>Numerous</b> - Imagine it is your birthday and you are given numerous gifts. None of them cost any money...what could they be?</p>
<b>Lesson 11</b>	<p><b>Dedicate</b> - How much time do you dedicate to homework, why do you think it's important?</p> <p><b>Deprive</b> - What one thing could you not survive without? What would you hate to be deprived of?</p> <p><b>Sluggish</b> - If you are feeling sluggish, what could you do to make yourself feel better?</p>
<b>Lesson 12</b>	<p><b>Banquet</b> - During special occasions people often lay out a spread of delicious food. What would you want at your birthday banquet and why?</p> <p><b>Gorge</b> - Between mountains you find gorges. What might you hear running through the gorges?</p> <p><b>Hearty</b> - In the depths of winter, what is your favourite most hearty meal?</p>

date

feedback



# Block 6 - Topic 3: Everest: The Great Climb

## Lesson 18

**Gigantic** - Some towns have gigantic parks, what would the ideal park have?  
**Major** - What major events have come happened at your school this year?  
**Summit** - It takes a long time to get to the summit of a mountain. What might you enjoy once you are there?

## Lesson 17

**Astound** - What's the most astounding fact about your school?  
**Budge** - If you've asked someone to do something and they won't budge, what would you do?  
**Spurt** - What happens when you have a growth spurt?

## Lesson 16

**Confident** - A confident speaker can hold people's attention. What techniques can be used to engage, entertain and delight an audience?  
**Exert** - Have you ever felt peer pressure? Do you think friends should exert pressure on each other to do certain things?  
**Suffocate** - When it's too hot indoors and there are no windows open it can feel suffocating. What outdoor activities could you do to get some much needed fresh air?

## Lesson 15

**Cautiously** - Before crossing the road you should cautiously look left and right. Can you name the different types of crossings? (zebra crossing, pelican and puffin (traffic lights)).  
**Crave** - When you are hungry, what food do you crave most?  
**Require** - What do you require in every lesson?

## Lesson 14

**Avalanche** - An avalanche in the mountains can have a devastating effect on its surroundings. What might cause an avalanche? (rain, earthquakes, rockfall, icefall, people and shifts under the snow caps).  
**Impressive** - What's the most impressive piece of work you've done this year?  
**Withdraw** - When you are feeling under the weather and withdrawn, what is guaranteed to make you feel better?

## Lesson 13

**Altitude** - The higher up a mountain you go, the higher the altitude. Trees struggle to grow at extreme altitude, why do you think this is?  
**Route** - How many different routes are there from your house to school?  
**Visible** - It is recommended that you wear a hi-visibility jacket when you go cycling at night time to stay safe. How else can you stay visible on the roads?

date

feedback

## Lesson 1

**Adapt** - Do you adapt your behaviour around different people? For example, do you speak to your Maths teacher the same way you speak to your best friend? Why is that do you think?

**Adjust** - How do you adjust your behaviour for different scenarios?

**Agony** - If someone has a terrible fall and is calling out in agony, what could you do to help?

**Allegiance** - How do you show allegiance to your friends?

**Disorientated** - Your first day at school can be disorientating. How could you help new students settle in?



## Lesson 2

**Anguish** - People may feel a strong sense of anguish when they are feeling sad about the loss of a pet. What could they do to help them through the pain?

**Anxious** - New situations are enough to make even the most confident person feel anxious. What calming thoughts could you think about in such situations? Think of four things beginning with the letters C-A-L-M.

**Apprehensive** - Before joining a new school club, you might feel apprehensive. What could you do to help you overcome your doubts?

**Awe** - When looking at the sunrise or sunset, you might feel a sense of awe about the power of nature and everything around us. What other aspects of nature might also give you a similar feeling of awe?

**Conform** - Lots of school have school uniforms to help students conform. If you could design your own school uniform what would it look like?



## Lesson 3

**Cope** - One might say, in order to cope during stressful times, you need hope. What three things make you most hopeful about the future?

**Cordial** - When you welcome someone into your home, how could you make them feel at home? What would be a cordial thing to do?

**Decontextualise** - When a newspaper only uses a few words from a long speech a politician has made. How much truth can you take from the decontextualised phrase?

**Desperate** - Imagine that you are new to a school half way through the year and you were desperate to be included in a friendship group to help you settle in. What might be a good way of beginning to know your new classmates?

**Diversity** - Do you think there is a diverse enough range of people represented on TV. What could TV shows do to improve their diversity?



# Block 7 - Topic 1: Strange Places

## Lesson 4

**Dwell** - When you make a mistake, it often makes matters worse if dwell on it. What can you do to recover from making a mistake?

**Hostile** - If you mistreat an animal, treating it with hostility instead of love and kindness. What are you in danger of doing?

**Improvise** - Have you ever improvised a tasty meal or snack from leftovers in the kitchen? What was the end result?

**Merge** - Some people find it difficult to merge their friends and family from outside school, with those in school. What advice would you give to someone trying to merge the two aspects of their lives together?

**Precarious** - If a teacher is walking through the school corridors with a precariously stacked pile of exercise books, what would you do to help and why?



## Lesson 4

**Linger** - In the winter it is common to get colds and flus. When you are recovering from a cough, sore throat or runny nose, what can you do to ensure it doesn't linger?

**Lure** - Predators will often lure their prey through trickery. Can you think of any tricks animals might play in order to survive? (Some snakes use the bright tip of their tails to lure unsuspecting prey as they mistake it for a worm)

**Makeshift** - People can be very creative, in order to save time, money and avoid wasting things unnecessarily. What uses can you think of for a medium sized wooden box? (table, chair, desk, storage, dolls' house, den etc.)

**Migration** - Birds migrate at two key points in the year. Why is this do you think?

**Originate** - Each culture has its own traditions which originate from generations ago. Can you think of any of your own cultural family traditions? Do you know where any of them originate from?



## Lesson 6

**Overcome** - There are often obstacles we have to overcome to fulfil our potential. Can you think of any obstacles that you have overcome this year? Well done! Give yourself a pat on the back and move on the next question...

**Prosper** - If you became prosperous and gained great success in your life, what would you spend your money and why?

**Refuge** - We all need a refuge in times of distress. Where would be your ideal refuge and why?

**Sanctuary** - It is important in this busy world we live in to make time to stop and reflect. What would you have in your sanctuary and why?

**Tangible** - Having fewer doctors would have a tangible effect of the healthcare of a country. Give three different effects having fewer doctors might have on a country...



## Lesson 7

**Abundant** - The rainforest is abundant with wildlife. What would you expect to see and why?

**Accommodate** - Schools are built to accommodate many students. Which rooms accommodates the most people in your school?

**Advance** - When you go on a school trip, what kind of things might your teacher give you advanced warning about?

**Apparel** - What apparel do you like to wear at the weekend? Why?

**Arid** - Where do you think the most arid place on earth is? [e.g. Sahara desert...]

## Lesson 8

**Barren**- Imagine that you find yourselves in the middle of hundreds of mile of endless fields with nothing else around you. How would such a barren setting make you feel and why?

**Blunder** -What is the greatest blunder you've ever made?

**Burden** - Who do you share your burdens with? Why?

**Capacity** - How do you show your capacity to care for others?

**Construct** - How would you construct your ideal home? Why?

## Lesson 9

**Challenge** - Who challenges you most at school? Do you think you should challenge yourself sometimes? Why? Why not?

**Collaborate** - How do you collaborate well in groups in class?

**Composure** - If you were presenting your work to a group of friends and one of them was trying to make you laugh, how would you keep your composure? Why do think it might be important to keep your composure?

**Conspicuous** - What is the most conspicuous item of clothing you own? What makes it so conspicuous?

**Constant** - What things are your teachers constantly saying? Why do you think that is?

date

feedback



## Lesson 10

**Continuous** - What weather seems to be most continuous in the winter time? What do you do when you have days and days of the same weather?

**Deluge** - What impact could a deluge of rainfall have on a lake? How do you like it might impact people's lives?

**Deplete** - By the end of the year, the school stock cupboards are usually depleted of pens and paper. What causes school supplies to deplete so quickly?

**Deteriorate** - Your school uniform and bag go through a lot throughout the year. What could you do to make sure they don't deteriorate before the summer comes?

**Duration** - The summer holidays takes place over a duration of six weeks. How would you spend the duration of your holidays?



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## Lesson 11

**Eerie** - Where is the most eerie place you've been? What made it so eerie?

**Extract** - Why are you sometimes asked to read an extract from a book in class, rather than the whole book?

**Habitat** - The natural habitat of birds are nests in trees. Can you think of any other natural habitats? Why are they so important to animals?

**Massive** - What's the best way to make a massive snowman?

**Meagre** - If you sat down to eat with friends and someone had a meagre amount of food, what could you do to make sure everyone had the same amount of food?



## Lesson 12

**Objective** - What are your main objectives when you arrive at school each day?

**Quest** - For many years, different people have been on a quest for the best way to live and be happy. What do think those people might find on their quest? Why?

**Solar** - Solar energy is becoming more popular. How does it work? Why do you think more people want to use it?

**Terrain** - We have to think about the terrain when we travel. How can we prepare for different types of terrain?

**Transport** - What is your favourite types of transport? Why?





## Lesson 13

**Accumulate** - If you don't tidy your classroom regularly all sorts of items can accumulate. What items accumulate in your class?

**Acquire** - At school you acquire lots of knowledge. What knowledge have you acquired in History this term?

**Ambition** - What are your main ambitions for this school term?

**Calculate** - Can you calculate the number of hours you spend on homework each term?

**Humble** - When people become famous it is often difficult for them to be humble. How could they stay humble? Why might it be important to be seen as humble if you are famous? Can you think of a famous people that is humble?

date

feedback



## Lesson 14

**Capital** - What is the capital city of your country? What do you find in capital cities that you might not find elsewhere?

**Combine** - Some people like to combine peanut butter with jam. Which foods do you like to combine and why?

**Compute** - It is difficult to compute the overall impact of a natural disaster (flood or earthquake etc.). How would you begin to compute the effect of a natural disaster? (e.g. count number of buildings ruined, lives lost, emergency services needed etc.)

**Controversy** - Has anything happened in your local community that has caused a lot of controversy? How are people reacting to this controversy? Why?

**Design** - How would you design your ideal school?



## Lesson 15

**Dominate** - What news stories are dominating the news this week?

**Eclipse** - Your friend eclipses you and takes over the role of team captain on your football team. What might being eclipsed feel like?

**Economy** - Over the years, what has kept your local economy going?

**Esteem** - What activities can help improve someone's self-esteem?

**Excel** - To excel at school, what do you need to do?



## Lesson 16

**Former** - What was your former school called? What were your favourite things about it?

**Innovation** - What have been the most life changing innovations of the 21st century? (the internet, smart phones/ watches/ TVs etc.)

**Knack** - If you show a knack for something should you stick at it? Why? Why not?

**Maximum** - What is the maximum amount of time you can hold your breath for?

**Negotiate** - At home, how do you negotiate who does the chores? Is there any negotiation here? Should there be?

date

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## Lesson 17

**Plan** - When you are planning a written response, how could you show your thought process? How many different ways could you plan a creative writing story for example?

**Prejudice** - If someone was clearly prejudice, how might they show it? How could you address their prejudices?

**Research** - How many ways can you carry out research? (google, talking to people, visiting places, use the library etc.)

**Strive** - What are you most striving for this term at school? How do you strive for it each day?

**Superior** - A Queen or a King is superior to a Prince or a Princess. What makes someone superior?



## Lesson 18

**Subordinate** - The soldier in the army is subordinate to his commander. How might this affect his behaviour?

**Support** - How can you support your friends in class?

**Unique** - What makes your friends unique?

**Vital** - List the most vital items for school. Why are they so vital?

**Vow** - Why is important for people to keep their vows? What does it tell you about someone?





# Block 8 - Topic 1: The Great Fire

## Lesson 1

**Abate** - If you have a disagreement with someone, what could you do to improve your relationship once the heated argument has abated?

**Anonymous** - Some people donate to charity anonymously, what might be their reason for doing so?

**Catastrophe** - Natural disasters like floods, hurricanes and tornadoes can have a catastrophic impact on communities. Which basic needs do you think emergency care teams would have to address?

**Murky** - Lots of famous novels begin with murky weather to set a foreboding atmosphere. Can you think of a novel or a film which starts with murky weather? How does it make you feel when you are reading or watching it?

**Vindictive** - Vindictive villains have long been popular in fairy tales. Can you think of an evil, sly and vindictive villain from a fairy tale? If it was turned into a film, set in modern day, who would you have playing the character?



## Lesson 2

**Abnormal** - Imagine you had a pet who you knew very well and you came home to them behaving abnormally, how might you find out what caused this behaviour?

**Brawl** - Is it appropriate to brawl in the playground? Why? Why not?

**Devour** - People usually like to devour cake on their birthday. If you could have any flavour cake in the world, what would it be and why?

**Incident** - If there was an incident of teasing in the classroom, what should you do and why?

**Notorious** - Social media is notorious for spreading vicious rumours, video footage and photos of celebrities. How could we use social media as a force for good?



## Lesson 3

**Accelerate** - The world champion sprinter, Usain Bolt can accelerate from the starting block and overtake his competitors with such ease. What factors do you think led to his success on the running track?

**Bystander** - If someone is being bullied, is a bystander just as responsible as the instigating bully?

**Ensnare** - How many years or months are there until your GCSE exams ensue? What could you do each month to help you feel more confident once you get started?

**Intensify** - If a musician is playing a joyful song (for a celebration), what could they do to intensify the sense of fun and happiness in the song? [start dancing, play loudly, encourage others to dance or get involved etc.]

**Overwhelm** - Have you ever felt overwhelmed by the amount of homework you have to do? What steps could you take to address this?



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# Block 8 - Topic 1: The Great Fire

## Lesson 4

**Acrid** - The acrid smell of gone off, sour milk may make you feel sick. Smells evoke strong emotions in use. What smells have the most powerful effect on you and why?

**Casualty** - Wars cause casualties. If you were in charge, what would you do to prevent wars between countries?

**Gauge** - Before you leave the house, it helps to be able to gauge the temperature outside to help you decide what to wear. How can you gauge the temperature without a thermometer?

**Investigate** - If you find a topic that really interests you in the news, how can you investigate it further?

**Urgent** - Imagine you received a letter in the post which read 'urgent' on the outside...What do you think might be inside? Why?



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feedback

## Lesson 5

**Lurk** - When you watch a scary film and you see an evil character lurking in the dark, what type of music is likely to be playing in the background? What effect might that have on you?

**Perjury** - What happens to people who commit perjury? [you get in more trouble as you have lied under oath].

**Potential** - What do you think you need to do on a daily basis to make sure that you fulfil your potential?

**Tamper** - Is it fair to tamper with other people's' belongings? Why? Why not?

**Wrath** - Can you think of a wrathful fictional character from TV, film or books? How do they show their wrath? [e.g. The Big Bad Wolf, Cruella de Vil, Voldemort]



## Lesson 6

**Homicide** - In some countries, homicide is punishable by death. Do you believe the death penalty is ever right? Why? Why not?

**Search** - We all misplace things every now and again. When you lose something, where is the first place you search and why?

**Unscathed** - Sometimes we are really lucky and we come out of a troubling situation unscathed. Describe one time you felt you were lucky and explain why.

**Vengeance** - Be honest, has there ever been a time when you wanted to get vengeance for something? Is it ever ok to seek vengeance? Why? Why not?



## Lesson 7

**Acclaim** - What happens when an actor is acclaimed for their success? If you were an acclaimed actor, who would you thank in your acceptance speech?

**Endure** - Imagine it rained all summer, your wifi was down and you couldn't enjoy the sunshine. What would you do to endure the boredom?

**Narrative** - Fairy tales have lots of common narratives that come up time and again (one example is the rags to riches story of Cinderella and finding 'happily ever after'). Describe your favourite type of story and explain why you like it.

**Qualify** - In order to qualify for the final at the Olympic games, athletes have to compete in a series of heats. If you were a professional athlete, how would you prepare for each race and why?

**Tragedy** - Within Shakespeare's tragedies there is always at least one character who dies at the end under unfortunate circumstances. Do you think Shakespeare was trying to teach us anything about how we treat one another? Why? Why not?

date

feedback



## Lesson 8

**Accomplish** - What is your greatest accomplishment? How did you achieve it? What do you hope to accomplish in the future?

**Compile** - Before a birthday party, people often compile their favourite songs to play in the background or to get their friends dancing. What songs would you compile for your birthday and why?

**Legacy** - Artists, writers and musicians leave a legacy of their work for future generations to enjoy. What legacy would you like to leave for future generations (ideally something that will tell them about the time we live in)?

**Present** - In Science, in what ways could you present your findings for an experiment?

**Status** - What is the status of Headteacher in a school? Who looks up to them? What is their role?



## Lesson 9

**Alter** - When you plan and write a story, it is very common to alter it as you go and you get new ideas. Describe another situation which which require you to be flexible and willing to alter your first plans...

**Browse** - When you browse the bookshelf in the school library, what kind of book do you usually look for and why?

**Detect** - How can you detect if a friend is having a bad day? What could you do to cheer them up?

**Monitor** - When you are growing plants you have to monitor their progress regularly. What does a plant need in order to thrive?

**Observe** - When you are little you learn a lot by observing those who are older than you. If a younger student was observing you to learn how best to behave, how could you set a good example and be a good role model for them to look up to you?



## Lesson 10

**Annihilate** - In sport, if a team wins by a lot of goals, they could be said to annihilate the other side. When was the last time you felt like you won by a long way? How did it make you feel?

**Bigot** - If someone is saying rude things to you and behaving like a bigot, what is the best way to respond and why?

**Defend** - When you have a heated debate, what is the best way to defend what you are saying? [support with evidence, think of counter-arguments and explain why they are weak etc.]

**Evaluate** - What is your evaluation of the pros and cons of smartphones?

**Notify** - Teachers and students often use school assemblies to notify everyone of main events. Why else do you think it is important we all come together for assemblies at school?

date

feedback



## Lesson 11

**Astute** - What might be the advantages of being an astute student?

**Hybrid** - Hybrid bikes have the speed of a racing bike and the sturdiness of a mountain bike. If you could design a hybrid mode of transport what would it be?

**Noteworthy** - Tourists like to visit noteworthy places. What noteworthy places would you like to visit one day and why?

**Prowess** - The best football players show prowess on the pitch through their speed and agility. What other skills does a football player need to succeed?

**Random** - What random act of kindness could you do to make someone smile today?



## Lesson 12

**Avert** - Imagine you are preparing for a class presentation and you lose your notes, what could you do to avert a crisis?

**Chart** - If you have a goal, how could you chart your journey with mini goals?

**Communicate** - Why is it important to communicate clearly with your friends and family?

**Deceased** - You find out on the news that a celebrity is deceased. How might the world react?

**Prepare** - You have been asked to prepare the table for dinner. How might you prepare it?



## Lesson 13

**Achieve** - What are the main things you want to achieve in your life?

**Blatant** - What's worse: being blatantly rude or being secretly rude to someone?

**Consider** - Do you usually consider your actions carefully or do you act before you have considered the consequences?

**Interact** - Why do you think it's important to learn how to interact with people at school?

**Wary** - Is there anything or anyone that you are wary of? Why are you wary of it/them?



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feedback

## Lesson 14

**Acquire** - What skill or talent did you last acquire?

**Broaden** - Parents sometimes say 'You need to broaden your interests.' What do you think they mean by this?

**Demonstrate** - Can you remember the last time someone demonstrated something to you?

**Irate** - What makes you irate?

**Reflect** - At school, we often have to reflect on what we have learned. Why could this be helpful?



## Lesson 15

**Addict** - What can people be addicted to? Are all addictions unhealthy?

**Casual** - The dress code on the invitation to your friend's party is 'casual.' What would you wear?

**Downright** - Some people can be downright rude. What is the best way to let them know they have hurt your feelings?

**Enthral** - A spectacular fireworks display is enthralling. What other enthralling sights do people flock to see? [a play, sport, music concert etc.]

**Perceive** - How do you think others perceive you? Give reasons as to why you think this is the case.



### Lesson 16

**Affliction** - In the winter, many people are afflicted with coughs, colds and flus. What could you do to avoid this affliction?

**Bestow** - What is the greatest award that you could be bestowed with at school for doing well?

**Claim** - Imagine that you have been falsely accused of cheating in a test. What are the different ways you could claim your innocence? [write a letter, ask witnesses to vouch for you, ask for more questions for an opportunity to show off what you know without the need for cheating etc.]

**Gruelling** - As part of army training, soldiers are put through gruelling tasks like swimming through cold mud and camping outside for days on end. If you were to design an army training program, what would you include?

**Perturb** - Fireworks perturb animals because they don't understand where they come from. What can you do to put pets at ease when they are going on?

date

feedback



### Lesson 17

**Agitate** - What three things could you do to avoid agitating your friends and family during a gathering?

**Allege** - Some people allege that they have seen ghosts. How likely do you think this is? Why? Why not?

**Compare** - Do you ever feel like you are being compared to other students? If so, how and why?

**Detach** - Sometimes you might want some alone time. How could you detach yourself from your usual group of friends? Is it necessary to have alone time every now and again?

**Docile** - If you had a younger sibling who was docile, do you think you'd find it easy to get along with them? Why? Why not?



### Lesson 18

**Apathy** - If someone feels apathy towards school, what do you think might have led to their apathy? How could you help them to get back into it?

**Conduct** - What is the best way to conduct yourself on public transport? Why?

**Distraught** - Imagine that your friend is distraught because they weren't chosen for the school football team. How would you make them feel better about it?

**Lethal** - Taken in large doses, paracetamol can be lethal. What are the pros and cons of modern medicine?





# Block 9 - Topic 1: The Singer

## Lesson 1

**Acknowledge** - Do you feel like your achievements get acknowledged? Who acknowledges your achievements and how?

**Antics** - What are the funniest antics your friends get up to? Why do you think you find them so funny?

**Dialect** - What words are part of your local dialect? When are they used and by who?

**Formidable** - Who is the most formidable teacher at your school? Why?

**Transform** - If you could transform your classroom and redesign the whole way you learned things in school, what would you change and why?

date

feedback



## Lesson 2

**Anarchy** - Do you think anarchy would descend on your school if the teachers were to go on strike for the day?

**Apprehend** - What is the best way to respond to a teacher who has just apprehended you for a misdemeanour?

**Banter** - How is banter used by your classmates? Why do people use banter?

**Deface** - It is against the school rules to deface school property. Give three different reasons why defacing school property would be a bad idea.

**Endeavour** - What outdoor activity do you endeavour to try for the first time this year? why? [mountain climbing, kayaking, parkour, camping etc.]



## Lesson 3

**Aloof** - If someone refers to you as aloof, do you see that as a positive trait? Why? Why not?

**Ask** - If a classmate asks you for help with their homework, how best could you help them?

**Deceptive** - Do you think not telling the whole truth is deceptive? Why? Why not?

**Gingerly** - If a cat is walk gingerly towards you, what does it tell you about how they see you? What could you do to put the cat at ease?

**Introduce** - If you were to introduce yourself to a new teacher, what information about yourself would you share with them?



## Lesson 4

**Conscientious** - How might being conscientious help you in the long run?

**Crusade** - Why did people go on crusade in the past? [some people did it for honour, revenge or love. Third, the people wanted their sins to be forgiven, to go to heaven or to take back goods from the Holy Lands or because they had committed a crime and were forced by the church to go on a Crusade. And some people just went on Crusades for fun.]

**Muster** - When was the last time you had to muster up the courage to speak up in class (perhaps disagreeing with your classmates)?

**Persevere** - When things are getting difficult, can you think of a mantra you could repeat to yourself to help you persevere?

**Strengthen** - What are three things you could do each day to strengthen your relationships?

date

feedback



## Lesson 5

**Attend** - What is the best ever birthday party you have attended? What did you do? Where did you go? Who else was there?

**Eccentric** - If you were dressing eccentrically for the day, what items of clothing would you wear? Give as much detail as possible (e.g. colour, size texture etc.)

**Forfeit** - If you mess around in class what privileges and freedoms might you have to forfeit?

**Inform** - If you have been asked to do research for school, what are the different ways you can inform your classmates of your findings?

**Participate** - What activities do you participate outside the classroom?



## Lesson 6

**Clarify** - If you need something clarifying in class, what is the best thing to do?

**Employ** - In Maths you often have to employ the use of a protractor and a compass, what tools might you need to employ within an art lesson?

**Gullible** - Do you think gullible people are easy to play tricks on? Why? Why not?

**Languish** - If you feel like you are languishing in a particular subject, what could you do to get back on track?

**Ovation** - After a play in the theatre, what might cause an audience to give a standing ovation?





# Block 9 - Topic 2: The Mercenary

## Lesson 9

**Perspective** - It is important to look at things from other people's perspectives. What is a good way to find out someone else's perspective?

**Haven** - Gardens are safe havens for hedgehogs. What other wildlife might you find in a garden?

**Deter** - Fear of failure could deter you from following your dream. What else might hold you back?

**Assess** - Every now and again it is good to stop to see how far you've come. How could you assess this?

**Accord** - We don't always agree with one another. If you are not in accord with someone, what is the best way to let them know?

## Lesson 8

**Trepidation** - Some people approach public speaking with trepidation. What is your greatest fear and why?

**Minimise** - Travelling can be expensive, whether it's the petrol, bus or train fares. How could you minimize costs? What is the cheapest way to travel?

**Mercenary** - What qualities would someone who is the opposite to mercenary have? [moral, caring, not greedy, materialistic, would never put making money over doing the right thing].

**Embark** - What was the last long trip you embarked on? Where did you go? With who? And for how long?

**Defect** - If your computer has a defect (and you can't access google) and you have lots of research homework, what other ways are there to find information out?

## Lesson 7

**Turbulent** - Have you ever been to a theme park or fair? Describe the most turbulent ride you saw (or even experienced).

**Execute** - What is the first step you can take to execute your plans?

**Embargo** - For decades students have swapped goods in schools, whether it be stickers, snacks or sports cards. Do you think there should be an embargo on such trade? Why? Why not?

**Citadel** - Athens in Greece is one of the oldest citadels in the world. What do you think you'd find in a citadel? [temples, places of worship, theatres, coliseums, libraries etc.]

**Audacious** - If you are being audacious, how are you likely to behave? Do you think it would be an endearing quality? Why? Why not?

date

feedback



# Block 9 - Topic 2: The Mercenary

## Lesson 12

**Blasé** - Have you ever been blasé about the dangers and risks of something, which has caused an accident? What was it and what happened as a consequence?

**Conventional** - Most schools have a uniform, what are the conventional items of clothing that make up a school uniform?

**Legendary** - When lots of stories are told about people they become legendary. Can you think of a famous historical figure who is legendary?

**Sublime** - It is said that the view from the mountain tops is sublime. Can you think of another view that could be said to be sublime?

**Transfigure** - When actors go on stage they are said to transfigure. If you could transfigure, what role would you play?



## Lesson 11

**Engage** - What helps you to focus and engage in class?

**Enigma** - When something is a complete mystery, it is an enigma. Is there a fictional character who remains an enigma to you? Who is it?

**Intervene** - If someone is in a heated conversation and you are trying to get their attention, how would you intervene and why?

**Rankle** - What three things most rankle you? Why do they rankle you so?

**Rubble** - When a new building is being built, lots of rubble is produced. Can you think of a creative use for rubble?



## Lesson 10

**Amiss** - You go into your classroom and something seems is amiss, you realise your pencil case has been moved. What do you do?

**Feasible** - It was not feasible for you to get to school on time. What might cause this?

**Fluster** - In exams it's important not to fluster, what can you do to best prepare and avoid flustering?

**Onslaught** - Sometimes you get an onslaught of homework. Which homework do you start with and why?

**Susceptible** - When you are tired, stressed and hungry you are susceptible to illness. What could you do to avoid illness?



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## Lesson 13

**Adept** - Professional sportspeople are adept at what they do. Who is your sports role model and why?

**Balmy** - When the weather is balmy in the summertime, what is your favourite thing to do?

**Confiscate** - Can you list all the items your teacher has confiscated this year?

## Lesson 14

**Agile** - There are lots of animals in the wild that are agile for survival. What is the most agile animal you have heard of? Describe how it moves.

**Authority** - If someone is an authority on a topic they know lots about it. What topic would you like to be an authority on?

**Avail** - When your friends give you advice, how do you showed you've availed yourself of it?

## Lesson 15

**Enhance** - If you were a sports player, what is the best way to enhance your game play (whatever the sport)? [practice, listen to an expert, watch other players]

**Grope** - Have you ever been out in the dark without a torch, a phone or a full moon for light? What senses did you have to rely on to grope your way through the dark?

**Vie** - When you are sure you have the right answer in class, how do you vie for the teacher's attention?

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## Lesson 18

**Recur** - People often have recurring dreams. Do you have any recurring dreams? Could you describe them?



## Lesson 17

**Renounce** - There are certain things we have to give up as we grow up. Whether it be renouncing telling lies or believing in fairies, what have you renounced?



## Lesson 16

**Succumb** - It is tempting to follow your friends. Have you ever succumbed to peer pressure?



**Eventful** - What is the most eventful holiday you have ever had? When was it, what happened and who was there?

**Overt** - If you were to be overtly polite when you meet someone for the first time, what could you do? [shake their hands, ask them about themselves, introduce them to whoever else is there etc.]

**Desolate** - When you are learning to drive a car, it is best to start somewhere desolate, where there aren't many cars. Where would you recommend near you and why?

**Pang** - Before a school holiday, it is common to pangs of excitement. When was the last time you felt a pang of excitement and why?

**Convey** - If you have strong feelings or thoughts about something, what are most effective ways to convey those thoughts or feelings?

**Deplore** - If you have strong feelings against something you deplore it. List three things you deplore and your reasons why.

**Shackle** - In the past, shackles were put on prisoners to hold them back. What holds you back and why?



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