

The Vocab Clinic

Support your students towards better language use,
with the help of our resident word-wizard, **Alex Quigley**...

TRY THIS TODAY: 'SO THAT...'

To ensure pupils develop their vocabulary, we must get them to elaborate upon their ideas in writing. By extending sentences, we encourage our pupils to use a broad and deep vocabulary. 'So that' sentences are a simple way to stretch out sentences and nudge pupils to develop their expression and the words they use.

For instance, if pupils are evaluating their products in design technology, they can use 'so that' in the middle of sentences to explain the thinking behind their design decisions: 'I designed a robust base so that...' or 'Paint was added so that...'



Cracking the academic code

Truculent teenagers can often be reluctant communicators. When it comes to their writing, we need to scaffold their sentences so that they produce extended academic writing. The strategy of 'sentence signposting' deploys familiar academic terms, such as 'first', 'furthermore' and 'in conclusion', but offers a variety of choices that pupils can master over time.

In RE, for example, simple signposts like 'due to', 'consequently', 'on the other hand' and 'on the contrary' can scaffold an entire argument or debate, both verbally and in writing. By selecting subject-specific 'sentence signposts' we can provide pupils with the tools to extend their ideas and use more elaborate vocabulary.



DO THEY KNOW?

More than 60% of all English words have Greek or Latin roots

ONE FOR: BUSINESS STUDIES STUDENTS

ENTREPRENEUR

Derives from: French '*entreprendre*', meaning 'to undertake' ('*entre*' being 'between' and '*prendre*' being 'to take')

Means: A person who has the vision and initiative to make business ideas happen

Related terms: Enterprise, businessperson, speculator, opportunist, venturer

Note: The root '*entre*' links to the more common root '*enter*' – e.g. an 'enterprising entrepreneur'



I DON'T THINK IT MEANS WHAT YOU THINK IT MEANS...

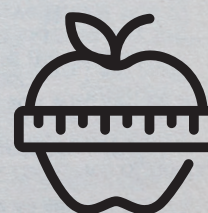
CALORIE

In physics

A unit of heat which describes the energy needed to heat 1 gram of water by 1 degree Celsius.

In food and nutrition

The energy value of foods, and the energy people use in physical activity



One word at a time

The word 'quarantine' remains an all-too-familiar one, given that we're still amid a global pandemic. It's a term that can now trigger an emotive response in light of our recent lived experiences, and is – perhaps unsurprisingly – one that emerged from the first great global pandemic, The Black Death, which swept across Europe in the 14th century.

The word has its origins in Italian, and the names of shipping ports such as Venice. The phrase '*quaranta giorni*' in Venetian dialect meant '40 days', back when this was the amount of time sailors needed to spend in isolation aboard their ships while docked at nearby islands before they were allowed ashore.



Alex Quigley is a former teacher and the author of a number of books, most recently *Closing the Writing Gap*; he also works for the Education Endowment Foundation as National Content Manager.