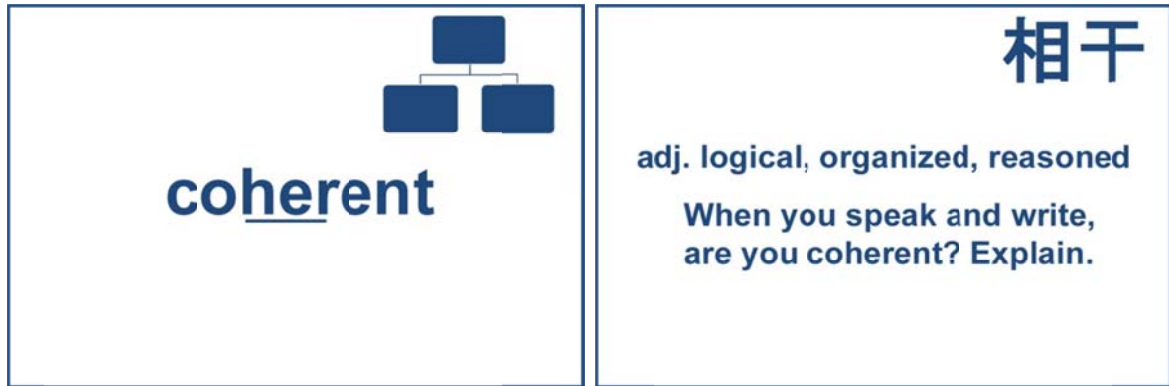


# Study Guide for AWL Cards

Experts recommend the following self-study method for word cards.


- **Adapt the AWL vocabulary cards available online by adding a meaningful picture on the front** and a translation into your language on the back.



- Set the number of words to study according to the difficulty of the words. Start with a small number of words and increase the number gradually.
- **Guess:** Look at the front of the card. Read the word, and look at the picture. Recall the meaning in your language. Turn the card over to see if you are correct.
- **Study:** Look at the back of the card. Read the translation and the list of synonyms. Read the word in the context of a question.
- **Practice:** Read the question out loud focusing on the meaning of the word. Answer the question out loud in a sentence using the vocabulary item. Asking and answering the question out loud will help you remember the word.
- **Test:** Shuffle the cards. Look at the front of the card, and guess the meaning of the word. You may guess either the translation or the synonyms or both. Turn the card over to see if you are correct. Every time you retrieve the meaning of the word from memory, the brain pathway or memory trace for this particular word will be strengthened, and the chance for remembering it in the future will increase.
- Keep changing the order of words in the box, putting the most difficult ones near the beginning.
- Once you can easily remember the translation of a word and its synonyms, add more information to the word card. This will allow you to process the word more deeply and, therefore, understand it more completely. For example, add all or some of the following information:
  - word forms (coherence, coherently)
  - spelled pronunciation (koh-**heer**-uhnt)
  - IPA pronunciation (kɒhɪərənt)
  - collocations: What words normally occur with this word? (e.g. be coherent, seem coherent, coherent argument, coherent essay) Use a collocation dictionary such as *Oxford Collocations Dictionary*.
  - simple definition(s) (logically connected, consistent)
  - example sentence(s) (When you speak and write are you coherent?)
  - word roots and affixes (com: together, here: to stick, ent: performance of action)

- associated words: What words relate to or are associated with this word? (cohesive, clear, makes sense, order, organization, development, progression)

n. coherence  
adv. coherently



**coherent**  
koh-heer-uh nt  
kou'hiərent

be coherent, seem coherent  
coherent argument, coherent essay

logically connected  
consistent

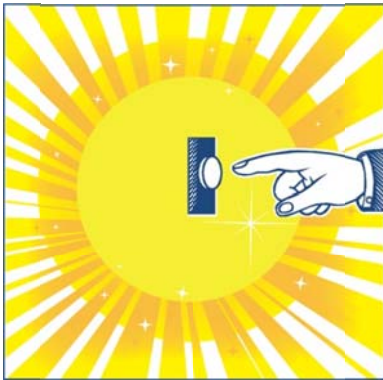
**相干**

adj. logical, organized, reasoned

**When you speak and write,  
are you coherent? Explain.**

Roots: com - together, here -stick  
Suffix: ent -performance of action

- **Use the keyword technique for difficult words.** Think of a word in your native language that sounds similar to the word you want to learn. For example, if you were French and wanted to learn the word *sunny*, you could associate it with the French word *sonner* which means *to ring*. Next you would create a mental image combining these two concepts such as an image of someone ringing a door bell on the sun. The more unusual the image, the easier it is to remember. Use this image for the picture on your vocabulary card.



- **Group words into different categories.** For instance, group them according to topics such as food, money, health, and so on. This will aid in deep processing.
- **Keep your cards in a box and divide the box into Sections 1–5.** After you feel a word is well-known, place it in Section 2. Once Section 2 fills up, review the words in Section 2, and add new information to the cards as outlined above. If the word is still well-known, place it in section 3; if you have difficulty with it, place it back in Section 1. When Section 3 fills up, review these words, and add new information to the cards. Follow the same procedure for Sections 4 and 5.

# Study Guide Using a Vocabulary Notebook

To study the words, follow similar techniques to those listed for word cards. Make sure to cover the translation when viewing the word to aid in true retrieval practice. You can also retrieve the English word from memory by looking at the translation and trying to remember the word. Remember that retrieval enhances memory. Leave enough space after each word so that you can add additional information to it as your understanding of it increases.

A vocabulary notebook is also useful for keeping important vocabulary lists:

- common prefixes, suffixes, and roots (See pages 615–619 in the Appendix.)
- common context clues (See the Reading section of Chapter 1.)
- common preposition combinations and the preposition errors recorded on your Writing and Speaking Error Charts (See pages 608–609 in the Appendix.)
- word choice corrections from word choice errors recorded on your Writing and Speaking Error Charts
- spelling corrections for misspelled words recorded on your Writing Error Chart.