

Knowing a word involves knowing its form, meaning and use. Summarizing Paul Nation's list of what this is for both receptive and productive skills:

Form

- What does the word sound like?
- How is the word pronounced?
- What does the word look like?
- How is the word written and spelled?
- What parts are recognizable in the word?
- What word parts are needed to express the meaning?

Meaning

- What meaning does this word form signal?
- What word form can be used to express this meaning?
- What is included in the concept?
- What items can the concept refer to?
- What other words does this make us think of?
- What other words could we use instead of this one?

Use

- In what patterns does the word occur?
- In what patterns must we use this word?
- What words or types of words occur with this one?
- What words or types of words must we use with this one?
- Where, when, and how often would we expect to meet this word?
- Where, when, and how often can we use this word?

Source: Nation, P., 2001, *Learning Vocabulary in Another Language*, Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, p. 27