Increasing Your Vocabulary

- One of the best ways to increase your vocabulary is to begin a regular program and stick to it.
- One of the best sources of new words comes from the words you read and the words you hear.
- One of the best ways to learn new words is to make out vocabulary cards the way we show you below:

1. Write the word correctly spelled.  
2. Write the diacritical marks telling how you say it. (You get these from the dictionary.)
3. Write the sentence you found the word in. Underline the word.
4. On the back, write the dictionary definition, or better, write in your own words what the word means.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISPARAGE</th>
<th>(front)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dis par’ ij</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I hate to disparage such an important achievement.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(back)</th>
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<tr>
<td>to discredit, belittle, put down</td>
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To use the cards:

1. Make out a card for every new word you meet.
2. Carry the cards with you. (They'll fit in your pocket.)
3. When you have a moment, take out the cards and look through them.
4. Slide up the card on the back of your pack. By looking at just the word first, you can see if you recognize it. If you do, good!
5. If you don't recognize it, slide the card up a bit more and look at the pronunciation. This may help your memory.
6. If not, look at the sentence you found it in. This may help.
7. If everything else fails, turn the card over and read the definition on the back.
8. Once a week, go through your cards and pull out those cards you have learned. Keep these in a separate place.
9. At the end of a month, go back and see if you still remember the words you’ve learned. Keep these in a separate place.
10. If you've forgotten the word, put it back in your "active" file for another week.
11. Use the words as often as possible, when you talk and when you write.