



Hints and Suggestions for Students

Words give you thinking power, and the power to communicate. We create mental maps of the world and our lives through language and words.

The area covered by Senior English is rich and expansive. In dealing with language, literature and thinking, it also deals with experiencing, communicating, self-knowledge, and connections with people, society and the world.

Because of this, the language of English can seem overwhelming. However, as you progress, you will be more able to use language to develop complex ideas. This will be very interesting and stimulating. Beam is designed to help you develop these interconnected networks of abstract language and concepts.

You already know some or many of the words in Beam. If so, be proud of your achievement so far.

There are various ways to use this book. Here are some hints and suggestions:

- Don't overdo it. Little by little is the best way to let words and meanings sink in and become part of your active vocabulary. Too much at one time can lead to confusion.
- Perhaps look at a page a day - or even one new word a day if you're busy.
- Study words that you've already come across - words you've already wondered about, words that interest you, or words you're puzzled by.
- Follow a word path, synonym trail or word set. For example, you could choose a word that interests you such as *create*, or *energy*, and then look at related words.
- Choose a topic. For example, look at *grammar* one day, or *literature* another day, or *poetry* words, or *opinion* words.
- Choose a 'Big' word, such as *theme*, *imagine*, *personality*, *explore*, *think*.
- Look at the pronunciation, spelling and word classes. Pronunciation will help your spelling.
- Study the way the words are used in sentences and texts. Notice the way your teachers use them, look at how they are used in your study, and how they are used by other people.
- Use the words in your own work and play, and your own conversations. That's the best way to make them part of your own personal language.
- Make notes, use a highlight marker.
- Explore, discover, be inspired, understand, grow, progress, enjoy.