

Academic vocabulary 1

AWL ACL

Using a dictionary

1 Read the dictionary entry and answer the questions.

- 1 What part of speech is *fluent*? How do you know?
- 2 What other forms of the word are there? What parts of speech are they?
- 3 What do you think [U] means at the end of the entry?
- 4 What part of the entry tells you how to pronounce the word? Where would you look to find out how to read the pronunciation symbols?
- 5 Which word is commonly used with *fluent*? What showed you this?
- 6 Dictionaries often put meanings in order of frequency. How can you check if your dictionary does this? Which is most important to know?

flu-ent /'flu:ənt/ *adj* 1 able to speak a language very well: [+in] *She was fluent in English, French and German.* 2 **fluent French/Japanese/etc** someone who speaks fluent French etc speaks it like a person from that country: *He spoke in fluent Italian.* 3 **fluent** speech or writing is smooth and confident, with no mistakes: *He was a fluent and rapid prose writer.* 4 **fluent** movements are smooth and gentle, not sudden and sharp: *She rose with the fluent movement of an athlete.* -**fluently** *adv*: *He spoke French fluently.* -**fluency** *n* [U]

Parts of speech

2a Look at the test task on page 9. Find words in the text that match these meanings.

- 1 proficiency : the state of having a very high level of skill
- 2 _____ : a way of thinking about or seeing something
- 3 _____ : idea
- 4 _____ : think that someone or something has a particular quality, value or standard
- 5 _____ : connected with language or words
- 6 _____ : the process of thinking, knowing and understanding
- 7 _____ : a standard way to do something
- 8 _____ : give special attention to one particular thing

b Write the words from Exercise 2a in the correct place in the notes. Then write the missing words in each row. Check your answers in a dictionary.

1	<u>proficiency</u> (n)	_____ (v)	_____ (adj)
2	_____ (n)	_____ (v)	_____ (adj)
3	_____ (n)	_____ (v)	_____ (adj)
4	_____ (n)	_____ (v)	_____ (adj)
5	_____ (n)	_____ (v)	_____ (adj)
6	_____ (n)	_____ (v)	_____ (adj)
7	_____ (n)	_____ (v)	_____ (adj)
8	_____ (n)	_____ (v)	_____ (adj)

c Choose one word from each row and write a question with it. Then work in pairs and ask and answer your questions.

Which language are you most proficient in?

Number prefixes

3a In the test task on page 9 you read about *bilinguals*. What does the prefix *bi-* mean?

b Look at the prefixes in the box. Which prefix means:

bi- deca- hexa- mono- multi- penta-
quad- semi- tri- uni-

- | | | |
|------------------|------|---------|
| A 1? (2 answers) | D 4? | G 10? |
| B 2? | E 5? | H ½? |
| C 3? | F 6? | I many? |

c Can you think of other number prefixes? Add them to the box.

4 Read the sentences. What do the underlined words mean?

- 1 He learnt three things at university: how to speak French, how to play the guitar and how to ride a unicycle.
- 2 He had lunch in the university's quadrangle, outside the Languages Department.
- 3 The building was in the shape of a hexagon.
- 4 The city is noted for its many multicultural areas.
- 5 His only chance to speak German was on his biennial visit to Berlin and his once-a-decade visit to Hamburg.
- 6 Unfortunately, the professor's lectures were nothing more than boring monologues, spoken unemotionally in a monotone.

5a Work in pairs. Make a list of other words you know that begin with the prefixes in Exercise 3. Share your list with the class.

b Choose five words from this page that are new to you and that you think might be useful to know. Write a sentence for each.