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I. English Language Vocabulary

ENGLISH LANGUAGE:

Currently, within the English Language section of the app, we have the following units:

- Language and Identity
- Language Change
- Language Acquisition
- Grammar

Language & Identity Keywords and Definitions

Word	Definition
represent	The word represent, in English language, means how language is used to portray certain groups or concepts.
projects	The word projects, in English language, means to convey outwardly.
authoritative	The word authoritative means to be assertive and powerful in tone or language.
perceive	The word perceive, in English language, means to interpret language or identity in a certain way.
perception	The word perception means the way something has been interpreted.
preconceived	The word preconceived means to hold views and ideas without necessary proof or full knowledge.
preconception	The word preconception means a prejudice or opinion that individuals hold.
subtle	The word subtle means something delicate or indirect.
insinuate	The word insinuate means to hint at or refer to indirectly.
enunciate	The word enunciate means to say each word clearly.
façade	The word façade means to present a front or persona that is not a natural one.
brusque	The word brusque, in English language, means abrupt or blunt in terms of language use.
charisma	The word charisma means an appealing sense of charm and attractiveness.
epitome	The word epitome means the perfect example or pinnacle of something.
typical	The word typical means a common or usual feature.
atypical	The word atypical, in English language, means an unusual feature in language use.
stigma	The word stigma means a shameful or disgraceful association.
idiosyncratic	The word idiosyncratic means a feature unique or peculiar to an individual.
quintessential	The word quintessential means the perfect example.
esoteric	The word esoteric, in English language, means language that is so specialised it can only be understood by a small number of people.

presupposition	The word presupposition means something that is assumed before discussions or arguments begin.
accent	The word accent means the way that someone pronounces their words based on their location and/or class.
dialect	The word dialect means the way someone uses language, particularly grammar and lexis, based on their location and/social group.
idiolect	The word idiolect means the language unique or peculiar to an individual.
sociolect	The word sociolect means the language unique or peculiar to a social group.
jargon	The word jargon means the specialist words unique to a certain professional group.
plosive	The word plosive means consonant sounds such as b, p or k, made by air flow being stopped and then suddenly released.
fricative	The word fricative means consonant sounds such as f, v and th, made by exhaling breath through the teeth or lips.
rhotic	The word rhotic means accents which pronounce the /r/ before consonants in words like first and at the end of words like car.
rhoticity	The word rhoticity means the frequency of rhotic sounds in an accent.
glottal stop	The phrase glottal stop means the stopping of air flow which is often used in place of other sounds.
hiatus resolution	The phrase hiatus resolution, in English language, means the way to pronounce two different vowel sounds in adjacent syllables.
schwa	The word schwa, in English language, means the mid-central vowel represented by the upside-down e in the IPA.
colloquialism	The word colloquialism means the conversational or casual use of language.
slang	The word slang means a style of language that is informal and typically limited to a certain group of people or situation.
register	The word register, in English language, means the variety of language used in a specific situation.
tenor	The word tenor, in English language, means the relationship between participants and their purpose.
appropriacy	The word appropriacy, in English language, means the suitability of language in certain situations.

Language Change Keywords and Definitions

Word	Definition
status	The word status, in English language, means the position or power of an individual speaker.
prestige	The word prestige, in English language, means the level of respect or admiration language receives.
mobility	The word mobility, in English language, means people's ability to change their location or social status.
aspire	The word aspire, in English language, refers to people wanting to use more prestigious forms to sound like a higher class speaker.

aspiration	The word aspiration means a desire or longing, often for status or social position.
conjugation	The word conjugation, in English language, means the way verbs change in languages that use inflections.
ideology	The word ideology means the values or beliefs of a text and/or writer.
positioning	The word positioning, in English language, means to manipulate the audience into holding a specific viewpoint.
standing	The word standing, in English language, means the social status or position of a speaker.
arbitrary	The word arbitrary, in English language, means random or personal changes to language with no clear reason.
inconsistent	The word inconsistent means variable and without a common pattern.
variation	The word variation, in English language, means the distinct regional or global differences between versions of English.
adopt	The word adopt, in English language, means to take on the linguistic elements of other speakers, writers or languages.
diaspora	The word diaspora, in English language, means the spread of people from their homeland.
etymology	The word etymology means the study of the origins and changes in meaning of particular words.
collocation	The word collocation, in English language, means groups or pairs of words that commonly go together.
idiom	The word idiom means a metaphorical phrase whose meaning cannot immediately be identified.
inflection	The word inflection, in English language, refers to the change in the form of a word to show a change in the grammatical value or class.
acronym	The word acronym means the use of the initials of a phrase or title to create a new word.
affixation	The word affixation, in English language, refers to the process of creating new words by adding prefixes or suffixes to existing words.
blending	The word blending, in English language, means to create new words by combining parts of existing words.
borrowing	The word borrowing, in English language, means the adoption of a word from another language.
compounding	The word compounding, in English language, refers to the process of creating new words by combining two existing words.
eponym	The word eponym, in English language, refers to the naming of something based on its inventor/creator.
clipping	The word clipping, in English language, refers to the formation of words by reducing longer words.
amelioration	The word amelioration, in English language, refers to the semantic change of word whereby it gains a more positive load.
pejoration	The word pejoration, in English language, refers to the semantic change of a word whereby it gains a more negative load.
conversion	The word conversion, in English language, refers to the semantic change of a word as it changes word class.

narrowing	The word narrowing, in English language, refers to the process whereby a word loses its previously more general and inclusive meanings.
broadening	The word broadening, in English language, refers to the process whereby a word gains a more generalised meaning.
regularisation	The word regularisation, in English language, refers to the process whereby irregular forms are changed to regular ones.

Language Acquisition Keywords and Definitions

Word	Definition
substitution	The word substitution, in language acquisition, is a process of simplification where the child replaces one phoneme for another.
virtuous error	The phrase virtuous error refers to an understandable error made when using language.
schema	The term schema refers to the mental structure of ideas or knowledge that children use to process current and new information.
hypernym	The word hypernym means the larger category of something such as colour or animal.
hyponym	The word hyponym refers to the more specific elements within a hypernym.
orthography	The word orthography refers to the conventional system of spelling and punctuation within a language.
deletion	The word deletion, in language acquisition, is a process of simplification where the child deletes certain phonemes or syllables.
lexicon	The word lexicon, in language acquisition, means the vocabulary of a person.
overgeneralisation	The word overgeneralisation, in language acquisition, refers to the application of grammatical rules where they are not appropriate.
overextension	The word overextension describes the process where children use one term to refer to a range of other items.
metalinguistic	The word metalinguistic means to understand that there is sometimes a greater meaning beyond the literal interpretation of language.
metalinguage	The word metalinguage refers to the terms and lexis used to discuss language.
articulation	The word articulation means the clear pronunciation of words and sounds.
consonant cluster	The phrase consonant cluster refers to two or more consonants that are placed next to each other, each still making a distinct phoneme.
mimic	The word mimic means to copy or imitate.
acquire	The word acquire means to gain skill or knowledge.
acquisition	The word acquisition means the gain of skills or knowledge.
enhance	The word enhance means to develop or strengthen.
maturation	The word maturation is the process of maturing or aging.

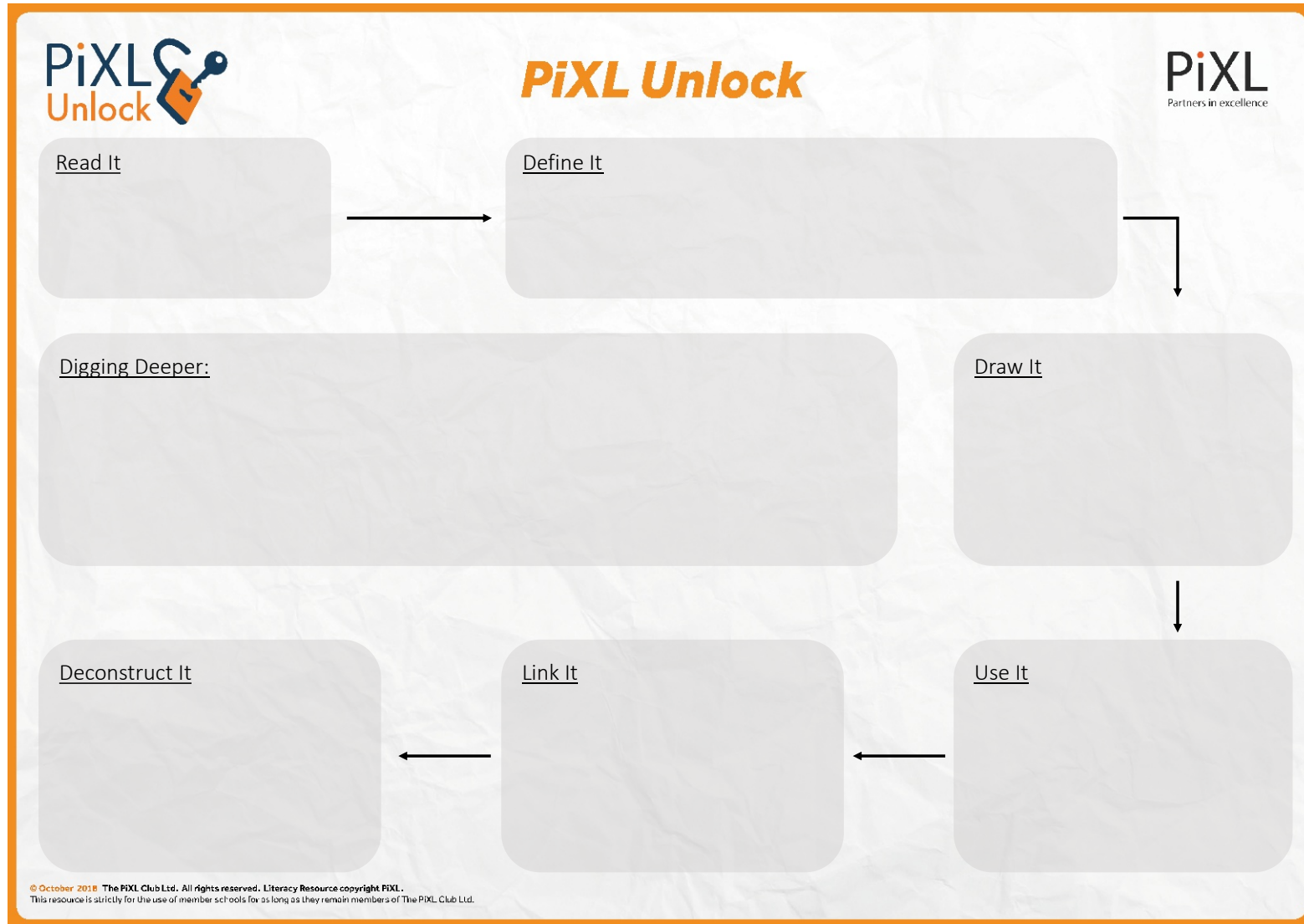
model	The word model, in language acquisition, means to demonstrate something for a child. It can be used as a noun or verb.
inadvertently	The word inadvertently means to do something accidentally or without intention.
competence	The word competence, in language acquisition, refers to the child's knowledge of the systems of their native language.
performance	The word performance, in language acquisition, refers to the child's ability to communicate with language.
interaction	The word interaction, in language acquisition, refers to the social contact and communication children have with others.
socialisation	The word socialisation, in language acquisition, refers to the process of socially mixing with others.
convention	The word convention, in language acquisition, refers to the use of typical features in a piece of writing.
musculature	The word musculature means the arrangement of muscles.

Grammar Keywords and Definitions

Word	Definition
verb	A verb is defined as a word which describes an action, state or occurrence.
adjective	An adjective is defined as a word which modifies a noun or acts as the complement after the verb 'to be'.
adverb	An adverb is defined as a word which modifies a verb, adjective or a whole clause.
noun	A noun is defined as a word used to name things, emotions or people. Nouns can be proper, common, collective or abstract.
conjunction	A conjunction is defined as a word which links two words or phrases together.
pronoun	A pronoun is defined as a word used in place of a noun.
suffix	A suffix is defined as a morpheme placed at the end of a word.
prefix	A prefix is defined as a morpheme placed at the beginning of a word.
homophone	A homophone is defined as a word which sounds like another but is spelled differently.
collective noun	A collective noun is defined as the term used to define a group of things, e.g. a pride of lions.
synonym	A synonym is defined as a word which shares a similar meaning to another.
determiner	A determiner is defined as a word which specifies a noun and can be in the form of an article, a possessive or a quantifier.
antonym	An antonym is defined as a word's opposite in meaning.
relative pronoun	A relative pronoun is defined as a word which connects a phrase or clause to the noun.
active voice	The active voice is demonstrated when the subject precedes the object.

passive voice	The passive voice is demonstrated when the object precedes the subject.
infinitive	An infinitive is the verb in its basic form and typically begins with 'to'.
perfect tense	The perfect tense is defined as the form of a verb which describes a completed action.
progressive tense	The progressive tense is defined as the form of a verb which describes events in progress, often called the continuous.
noun phrase	A noun phrase is defined as a phrase with a noun as its head.
imperative mood	The imperative mood refers to the form of the verb used for direct commands and uses the zero infinitive form.
indicative mood	The indicative mood refers to the form of the verb used to make statements.
interrogative mood	The interrogative mood refers to sentences or utterances where the auxiliary form is inverted and placed before the subject to form a question.

II. The PiXL Unlock Template



III. Summer Reading list

There are a vast number of books on linguistics which you can read to gain a wider understanding of and appreciation for the subject. Listed below are just five which deal with some of the common major topic areas covered in English Language. This is not meant to be a comprehensive list and there are many other books that you can read.

1. Language Change – David Crystal: The Stories of English
2. Prescriptivism/Descriptivism – Deborah Cameron: Verbal Hygiene
3. Gender – Deborah Tannen: You Just Don't Understand!
4. Child Language Acquisition - Steven Pinker: The Language Instinct
5. Norman Fairclough – Language and Power

IV. Links to TED Talks/Articles/Documentaries/Books/Journals

An excellent way to inform your wider understanding of English Language in culture is to read articles and watch videos/documentaries on the topic. You should take notes of key ideas that you find interesting and discuss these with your class/teacher. Consider these links a starting point to conduct research.

TED Talks and speeches:

How language shapes the way we think (the classic Sapir Whorf hypothesis) – more focused on different languages as opposed to linguistics but the cognitive science concepts are excellent:

https://www.ted.com/talks/lera_boroditsky_how_language_shapes_the_way_we_think?language=en

The Gift of Words: https://www.ted.com/talks/javed_akhtar_the_gift_of_words

What Our Language Habits Reveal – an incredibly insightful talk by Steven Pinker:

https://www.ted.com/talks/steven_pinker_on_language_and_thought

Txtng is killing language. Jk!!!:

https://www.ted.com/talks/john_mcwhorter_txtng_is_killing_language_jk

The Joy of Lexicography: https://www.ted.com/talks/erin_mckean_redefines_the_dictionary

Metaphorically Speaking: https://www.ted.com/talks/james_geary_metaphorically_speaking

Linguistics as a Window to Understanding the Brain – Steven Pinker exploring language in more detail in terms of its functionality: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-B_ONJIEcE

David Crystal on Texting: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h79V_qUp91M

Deborah Tannen: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M75h9_0KavY

Helpful websites:

Universal Teacher – an informative website directed at English Language A Level students – it was set up for older specifications so much of the more specific exam related content is not relevant but the theories and guidance on frameworks is good:

<http://www.universalteacher.org.uk/contents.htm#langua>

Britannica – a very detailed look at the history of linguistics:

<https://www.britannica.com/science/linguistics>

The Conversation – academic articles on many subjects including linguistics and English Language:

<https://theconversation.com/global/topics/linguistics-1841>

The Guardian – an open access newspaper which has lots of excellent articles on linguistics and English Language: <https://www.theguardian.com/science/language>

Unravelling – a free magazine devoted to linguistics (it is more geared towards languages beyond the English Language but there are some helpful articles): <https://unravellingmag.com/>

Documentaries:

Fry's Planet Word - Stephen Fry delivers an informative and interesting documentary on different aspects of Language around the world. Unfortunately, the BBC no longer hosts the episodes but you can buy a copy of the DVD.

The Adventure of English Language – a good resource for looking at Language Change:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1XQx9pGGd0>

More specific articles:

An investigation into how language affects thought with a focus on the Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis:
<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2014/jan/29/how-words-influence-thought>

An insightful exploration of how metaphors are used in relation to politics and society:
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/sep/06/herded-language-metaphor-war>

Sexism in language:
<https://www.theguardian.com/media/mind-your-language/2013/oct/18/mind-your-language-sexism>

Banning slang and the impacts of this on language:
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/oct/16/banning-slang-harris-academy-alienate-young-people>

An extract from Deborah Cameron's book 'The Myth of Mars and Venus':
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2007/oct/01/gender.books>

V. Knowledge Organiser Template



VI. Thinking Hard Revisit Template

Name of Topic: _____

Name: _____

Class: _____

Take a section of the text and do the following:

1) **Prioritise:** Underline the three most important sentences here. Rank 1-3, briefly explain number 1. Cross out the least important sentence

2) **Reduce:** Reduce the key information into 12 words

3) **Transform:** Transform this information into four pictures or images (no words allowed)

4) **Categorise:** Sort this information into three categories. Highlight and think of a suitable title for each category.

5) **Extend:** Write down three questions you'd like to ask an expert in this subject.

VII. A Model of the Thinking Hard Revisit document

Name of Topic: English Language – Child Language Acquisition Theory

<https://www.simplypsychology.org/language.html>

Name: A. Student

Class: English Language

Take a section of the text and do the following:

6) **Prioritise:** Underline the three most important sentences here. Rank 1-3, briefly explain number 1.
Cross out the least important sentence

Skinner argued that children learn language based on behaviourist reinforcement principles by associating words with meanings.

[Noam Chomsky] proposed the theory of Universal Grammar: an idea of innate, biological grammatical categories, such as a noun category and a verb category that facilitate the entire language development in children and overall language processing in adults.

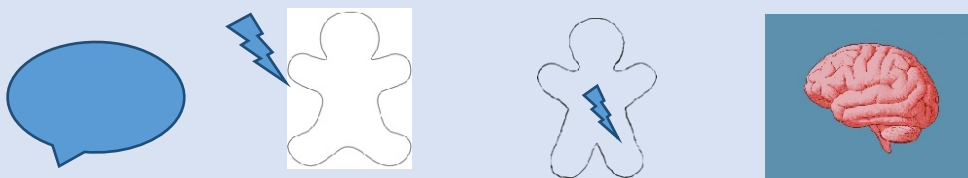
~~Researchers started to suggest that instead of having a language-specific mechanism for language processing, children might utilise general cognitive and learning principles.~~

7) **Reduce:** Reduce the key information into 12 words

Skinner – Behaviourist: reinforcement; Chomsky – Universal Grammar: innate; Cognitive: pattern recognition.

Overall uncertainty.

8) **Transform:** Transform this information into four pictures or images (no words allowed)



9) **Categorise:** Sort this information into three categories. Highlight and think of a suitable title for each category.

Behaviourist

Innate

Cognitive

10) **Extend:** Write down three questions you'd like to ask an expert in this subject.

What differences are there for language acquisition as an adult learning a new language?

How does reading and writing come about?

There are cases of some children not talking until a very late age and then being able to talk fluently. What is happening here?

VIII. Cornell Notes Template

Name	Date
Topic	Subject

Main Ideas	Notes
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Summary

IX. A Model of the Cornell Notes document

Name: A. Student

Date: 01.05.19

Topic: English Language

Subject: Gender Theory – Deborah Cameron

Main Ideas

Lots of people have claimed that there is evidence that men and women speak differently and that this is 'natural' – it is not.

Myths about gender differences in language can have real impacts in the world.

List five claims made by the 'myths'.

Relationship between sexes is not just difference but power.

Studies actually show very little statistical difference between men's and women's speech.

Notes

Mentioning lots of writers on gender. In particular, Deborah Tannen (look up more info as she is another important theorist).

References to real world impacts of gendered language assumptions such as the call centre.

5 claims are:

- 1) Women talk more than men
- 2) Women are better at talking
- 3) Men talk to get things done – women to empathise
- 4) Men compete; women cooperate
- 5) The above routinely leads to miscommunication

Good point to connect to language and power theories (look up).

We all have confirmation bias on beliefs.

Specific examples such as how 'The Female Brain' claimed that women say 20,000 words a day but men only 7,000. This was completely made up but still gained traction in news (could connect these ideas to 'Fake News').

Janet S. Hyde – The Gender Similarities Hypothesis – look up.

Look up Jack Chambers.

The idea that women talk more is linked to social prejudice (i.e. the idea that women talk 'too much')

Summary

Deborah Cameron makes a very clear case for the idea that there is actually very little difference between how men and women speak (the diversity or dynamic theory/model). There are differences but these are statistically insignificant.



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