

## Vocabulary in textbooks

In many disciplines, if you learn the new technical vocabulary, you have learned a large part of the subject.

Vocabulary types	Examples
Technical terms to identify objects	Anatomy text identifying body parts: femur, patella
Familiar objects broken down into less familiar parts	Biology text labeling cell parts: nucleus , membrane
Processes important to the subject	Government text explaining <i>judicial review</i> , <i>congressional oversight</i>
Concepts important to the subject	Sociology text defining <i>role models</i> , <i>reference groups</i>

## Term identification and definition

Writers often use **boldface** or *italics* the first time a new term of important appears in a textbook. Then a definition follows in that sentence---in parentheses or through other punctuation---or in a separate sentence. A discussion of how the term then applies to the subject matter and to related terms also may appear. In some books, definitions of new terms appear in the margin or as a footnote on the same page.

## Linked definitions

At times several terms with related definitions appear together in the same paragraph. Understanding how the words are related to each other can help you understand each of the terms better.

## Vocabulary diagrams

A common way to introduce and define new vocabulary, especially in the sciences and technology, is to provide a labeled diagram. The diagram identifies the various parts of an object, giving each a name. Not only do these identify exactly and concretely what each term means; they also provide a visual image that many help you remember each term and how it relates to the other terms in the same diagram.

## Glossaries and word lists

Often textbooks so depend on the vocabulary of a subject that a glossary---a list of new terms and definitions---will appear at the start or end of each chapter or at the end of the book. These lists will help you review new terms as well as your knowledge of concepts, objects, and topics in the subject area.

## Nouns in academic subjects

Since so much of an academic subject has to do with naming things, many important terms appear as *nouns*. When you read complex noun forms, think of the term in its simplest root form. The process of turning words into nouns is call *nominalization*.

Word (simple form)	Noun forms (nominalized word)
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behave	behavior
	behavioral
	behaviorism
depress	depression
	depressive
	depressional
operate	operant
	operative
	operability
	operational
stress	stressful
	stressor
	stress-inducer
Sense	sensory
	sensorimotor
	sensitivity
	sensate
	sensitive
	sensation