

Keyword Mnemonics Checklist

It can be difficult to remember all of the people, places, and concepts that are required to understand subjects like social studies and science. Keyword mnemonics is one strategy you can use to learn and remember new vocabulary words. Just like a key unlocks a door, a keyword unlocks the definition of an important vocabulary word.

The keyword mnemonics strategy has several important parts: a target vocabulary word, a keyword, a simple picture, a connecting phrase, and a plan. Use this checklist to ensure that you have a key that will unlock the correct definition of the target vocabulary word!

Additional Resource

For more information on using this learning strategy, read our previous blog post [“Keyword Mnemonics: A Strategy to Build Content-Specific Vocabulary and Unlock Informational Texts”](#) by Leah Zimmerman, Ph.D., and Deborah K. Reed, Ph.D.

Keyword Mnemonics Checklist



1. Target Vocabulary Word

- _____ Difficult to remember or use correctly
- _____ Important for understanding a specific topic or text

2. Keyword

- _____ Easy to visualize
- _____ Sounds similar to the target word

3. Picture

- _____ Easy to remember
- _____ Illustrates the keyword (**not** the target word)

4. Connecting Phrase

- _____ Connects the keyword and picture to the target word
- _____ Sounds similar to the target word

5. Plan

- _____ Explains how the keyword, picture, and connecting phrase will be used to remember the definition of the target word