

VOCA BULARY CHAMPIONS:

STELLAR Curriculum and Beyond

Find out how building a strong vocabulary can help your child keep pace with the latest developments in MOE's Strategies for English Language Learning and Reading (STELLAR) curriculum.

By Lim Geok Choo, ex-master teacher, & EPH Editorial Team

The new Primary English Language syllabus, introduced in 2020 and to be fully implemented by 2025, brings about changes to the STELLAR programme. What are the key updates and how can parents support their children in building strong English vocabulary to keep up? Ex-master teacher Lim Geok Choo, author of the **Champion in English Vocabulary** series (\$10.90 each), shares her insights.

Q What are the major changes to the STELLAR curriculum based on the new 2020 English Language syllabus?

Since 2020, there has been a dedicated number of readers for use in the English classroom, instead of the range of choices previously available. Studying vocabulary from these readers, in turn, offers pupils a springboard for the mastery of more complex vocabulary. They also learn metalanguage (e.g. 'phrasal verbs' and 'imagery') relevant to their level to solidify their

understanding of new grammatical concepts. Also, there is now a greater emphasis on peer interaction to hone pupils' listening and speaking skills, as well as annotating and critical thinking exercises during reading to further develop pupils' comprehension skills.

Q Given the push for the mastery of more complex vocabulary in the revised curriculum, how can parents help their children in vocabulary learning?

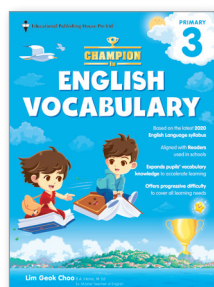
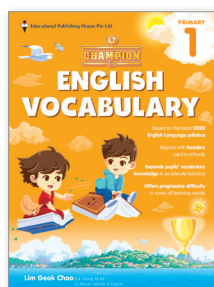
As a parent myself, I believe that effective vocabulary learning requires deliberate planning. Word banks serve as a great tool to get children to write down new words and phrases they come across in their lessons or during reading. To ensure that new words become part of a child's daily vocabulary, parents should actively use and repeat them in conversations with the child. If the child is confused about the use of a new word, parents should revisit the word multiple times to cement learning and resolve any confusion. Additionally, supplementary

materials like vocabulary-building books and assessment papers can also help children retain new vocabulary.

Q Where did you get the inspiration for your new series, *Champion in English Vocabulary*?

When my children were in primary school, they were in dire need of strong grammar and rich vocabulary to do well academically. After studying their worksheets, I created my own vocabulary lists and exercises to plug gaps in their learning and help them excel. These included challenging vocabulary on top of the words from the STELLAR readers.

Inspired by my personal experience, the *Champion in English Vocabulary* series by Educational Publishing House aims to reinforce vocabulary learning from the STELLAR readers and expand beyond the syllabus with new terms. The variety of exercises allows pupils to apply their vocabulary knowledge in different contexts while picking up new tips, techniques, and strategies to excel in the English language.



(The P5 and P6 editions will be available in 2024.)