



100 Must-Know Vocabulary Words for NAPLAN

Introduction to NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9. It tests the types of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, including reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar, and punctuation), and numeracy.

Vocabulary knowledge is a critical component of success in NAPLAN tests, particularly in the reading and language conventions sections. Having a strong vocabulary helps students understand test questions, comprehend reading passages, and express themselves clearly in the writing task.

This ebook provides 100 carefully selected vocabulary words that commonly appear in NAPLAN tests. The words are organised by difficulty level to help you progressively build your

vocabulary skills. Each word includes a clear definition, an example sentence showing how the word is used in context, and tips for remembering or using the word.

How to Use This Guide

To make the most of this vocabulary guide, follow these suggestions:

- **Learn progressively:** Start with the Simple and Common words before moving on to the Difficult and Challenging sections.
- **Review regularly:** Study a few words each day rather than trying to memorise them all at once.
- **Practise actively:** Try to use the words in your own sentences, both written and spoken.
- **Complete the exercises:** Test your understanding with the practice exercises provided after each section.
- **Make connections:** Notice relationships between words, such as synonyms, antonyms, and word families.

Simple Words (20 words)

These words form the foundation of your vocabulary. While they may seem basic, mastering them ensures you have a solid foundation to build upon.

1. Arrive

Definition: To reach a destination or place.

Example: *"The bus will arrive at the school at 8:30 AM."*

Tip: Remember that "arrive at" is used for specific locations, while "arrive in" is used for larger areas like cities or countries.

2. Blend

Definition: To mix or combine things together.

Example: *"She will blend the ingredients to make a smoothie."*

Tip: Think of a blender mixing different fruits together – they become combined into one

mixture.

3. Claw

Definition: A sharp, curved nail on the foot of an animal.

Example: *"The cat sharpened its claws on the scratching post."*

Tip: Make a claw shape with your hand to help remember this word.

4. Crowd

Definition: A large group of people gathered together.

Example: *"A crowd of excited fans gathered outside the stadium."*

Tip: The word "crowd" contains the word "row" – imagine rows of people grouped together.

5. Destroy

Definition: To damage something so badly that it no longer exists or cannot be repaired.

Example: *"The storm could destroy the old wooden shed."*

Tip: Notice how "destroy" sounds forceful when you say it – just like the action it describes.

6. Enjoy

Definition: To take pleasure in something.

Example: *"The children enjoy playing in the park after school."*

Tip: Associate "enjoy" with feeling "joy" – they share the same root.

7. Globe

Definition: The earth or a model of the earth.

Example: *"The teacher pointed to Australia on the globe."*

Tip: A globe is round like the letter "o" in the middle of the word.

8. Habit

Definition: Something you do regularly, often without thinking about it.

Example: *"Brushing your teeth twice a day is a good habit."*

Tip: Think of habits as actions that you do repeatedly until they become automatic.

9. Insect

Definition: A small animal with six legs and a body divided into three parts.

Example: *"The butterfly is a colourful insect."*

Tip: Remember that all insects have exactly six legs – no more, no less.

10. Length

Definition: The measurement of something from end to end.

Example: *"The length of the swimming pool is 25 metres."*

Tip: Length is measured along the longest dimension of an object.

11. Local

Definition: Belonging to or connected with the place where you live or are talking about.

Example: *"We shop at the local supermarket near our house."*

Tip: Think of "local" as referring to your location – where you are.

12. Naughty

Definition: Behaving badly or disobeying rules.

Example: *"The naughty puppy chewed up my homework."*

Tip: Notice the "aught" spelling pattern, which also appears in words like "caught" and "taught."

13. Obtain

Definition: To get or acquire something.

Example: *"You must obtain permission before leaving the classroom."*

Tip: "Obtain" is a more formal way to say "get" – use it in your writing to sound more sophisticated.

14. Perfect

Definition: Being without any flaws or mistakes; exactly right.

Example: *"Her spelling test was perfect – she got every word right."*

Tip: Something perfect is complete – it has no errors at all.

15. Problem

Definition: A difficult situation that needs to be resolved.

Example: *"The maths problem required us to add fractions."*

Tip: When you face a problem, you need to find a solution.

16. Quality

Definition: How good or bad something is.

Example: *"This jacket is expensive because it's made of high quality material."*

Tip: Quality can be high or low – it describes the standard of something.

17. Rescue

Definition: To save someone or something from danger or harm.

Example: *"The firefighter will rescue the cat stuck in the tree."*

Tip: A rescue operation involves helping someone who is in trouble or danger.

18. Shape

Definition: The form or outline of something.

Example: "The cookie was cut into the shape of a star."

Tip: Draw different shapes (circle, square, triangle) to help remember this word.

19. Tower

Definition: A tall, narrow building or structure.

Example: "From the top of the tower, we could see the entire city."

Tip: Think "taller" when you hear "tower" – towers reach high into the sky.

20. Worried

Definition: Feeling anxious or troubled about something.

Example: "I was worried when my dog ran away, but thankfully we found him."

Tip: When you're worried, you're thinking about possible problems or dangers.

Practice Exercises: Simple Words

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate simple word from the list above:

1. The train will _____ at the station at 3 PM. (arrive)
2. There was a large _____ of people at the concert. (crowd)
3. My cat uses its _____ to climb trees. (claws)
4. The hurricane might _____ buildings along the coast. (destroy)
5. Do you _____ playing soccer? (enjoy)

Match the word to its definition:

1. Habit — a) The form or outline of something
2. Quality — b) Something you do regularly

- 3. Shape — c) To save from danger
- 4. Rescue — d) How good or bad something is
- 5. Globe — e) The earth or a model of the earth

Common Words (30 words)

These words appear frequently in NAPLAN tests and in everyday reading materials. Mastering these words will significantly improve your vocabulary range.

21. Adventure

Definition: An exciting or unusual experience.

Example: *"Camping in the forest was quite an adventure for the city children."*

Tip: Adventures involve new experiences that might be thrilling or challenging.

22. Attach

Definition: To fasten, join, or connect one thing to another.

Example: *"Please attach your homework to the email before sending it."*

Tip: When you attach something, you're making it stick to or join with something else.

23. Behave

Definition: To act or conduct oneself in a specified way.

Example: *"The teacher expects students to behave properly in class."*

Tip: Your behaviour is how you act in different situations.

24. Contain

Definition: To have something inside or include something as a part.

Example: *"This box contains all my favourite books."*

Tip: Think of a container – it holds or contains items inside it.

25. Discuss

Definition: To talk about a topic with someone else.

Example: *"We will discuss our project ideas at the meeting tomorrow."*

Tip: A discussion involves sharing thoughts and ideas through conversation.

26. Example

Definition: A thing that represents or illustrates a general rule or idea.

Example: *"The teacher showed us several examples of how to solve the problem."*

Tip: Examples help to clarify or explain concepts by providing specific instances.

27. Explain

Definition: To make something clear or easy to understand by giving details.

Example: *"Can you explain how to play this new game?"*

Tip: When you explain something, you're making it "plain" or clear to others.

28. Holiday

Definition: A day of rest or celebration when normal activities are suspended.

Example: *"We're going to the beach for our summer holiday."*

Tip: Holidays are special days – think of them as "holy days" which is the origin of the word.

29. Limb

Definition: An arm, leg, or branch.

Example: *"The monkey swung from limb to limb in the trees."*

Tip: Limbs are the extending parts of the body (arms and legs) or of trees (branches).

30. Menu

Definition: A list of dishes available at a restaurant or a list of options to choose from.

Example: *"The restaurant has a special menu for children."*

Tip: A menu presents choices – whether food options at a restaurant or options in a computer programme.

31. Merit

Definition: The quality of being particularly good or worthy.

Example: *"Her idea has merit and should be considered."*

Tip: Something with merit deserves attention or praise because of its quality.

32. Migrate

Definition: To move from one place to another, especially to a different country.

Example: *"Many birds migrate south for the winter."*

Tip: Migration involves movement – think of migrating animals that travel long distances seasonally.

33. Modern

Definition: Relating to the present time or recent times.

Example: *"The school has been updated with modern technology."*

Tip: Modern refers to current or recent styles, ideas, or methods – as opposed to traditional or old-fashioned ones.

34. Moral

Definition: Concerned with the principles of right and wrong behaviour.

Example: *"The story teaches an important moral lesson about honesty."*

Tip: Morals relate to understanding what is right or wrong in terms of behaviour or character.

35. Native

Definition: Belonging to a person by birth, or to a plant or animal by origin.

Example: *"Kangaroos are native to Australia."*

Tip: Something native naturally belongs to a specific place or region.

36. Ordinary

Definition: Normal, usual, or not special in any way.

Example: *"It was just an ordinary day until we found the lost dog."*

Tip: Ordinary things are common and don't stand out as special or extraordinary.

37. Planet

Definition: A large round object in space that moves around a star.

Example: *"Earth is the third planet from the Sun."*

Tip: Our solar system has eight planets – Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune.

38. Plastic

Definition: A synthetic material that can be moulded into different shapes.

Example: *"We should reduce our use of plastic bags to help the environment."*

Tip: The word "plastic" comes from a Greek word meaning "able to be moulded" – which describes how plastic materials can be shaped.

39. Platform

Definition: A raised level surface on which people or things can stand.

Example: *"We waited for the train on the station platform."*

Tip: A platform is flat (like a "form") and raised above the surrounding area.

40. Probably

Definition: Likely to happen or be true.

Example: *"It will probably rain tomorrow, so bring an umbrella."*

Tip: "Probably" expresses likelihood but not certainty – something that is probable has a good chance of happening.

41. Purpose

Definition: The reason for which something is done or created.

Example: *"The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the upcoming school event."*

Tip: When something has a purpose, it has a specific aim or intention behind it.

42. Recover

Definition: To return to a normal state of health, mind, or strength.

Example: *"After her illness, she needed a week to recover completely."*

Tip: To recover means to get back something lost – such as health, an object, or control.

43. Region

Definition: An area, especially a part of a country or the world with definable characteristics.

Example: *"The coastal region has warmer weather than the mountains."*

Tip: A region is a specific geographical area with common features or qualities.

44. Report

Definition: To give a spoken or written account of something.

Example: *"The students will report their science findings to the class."*

Tip: A report presents information about something that has been observed, heard, done, or investigated.

45. Robot

Definition: A machine that can perform tasks automatically or with guidance.

Example: *"The factory uses robots to assemble the cars."*

Tip: Robots are machines designed to imitate certain human actions or functions.

46. Scatter

Definition: To throw or place things in different directions so that they cover an area.

Example: *"The wind will scatter the leaves across the yard."*

Tip: When things scatter, they spread out in various directions from a central point.

47. Shiny

Definition: Reflecting light; bright and glossy.

Example: *"The car looked shiny after being washed."*

Tip: Shiny objects reflect light – think of polished metal or wet surfaces that gleam.

48. Structure

Definition: The way something is built, arranged, or organised.

Example: *"The structure of the bridge is designed to withstand strong winds."*

Tip: A structure can refer to a physical building or to the organisation of something (like the structure of a story).

49. Suddenly

Definition: Quickly and unexpectedly.

Example: *"The dog suddenly ran across the road."*

Tip: When something happens suddenly, it occurs without warning – there's an element of surprise.

50. Surprise

Definition: An unexpected or astonishing event or fact.

Example: "The birthday party was a complete surprise for her."

Tip: A surprise catches you unaware – it's something you didn't expect or anticipate.

Practice Exercises: Common Words

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate common word from the list above:

1. Hiking through the mountains was an exciting _____ for the family. (adventure)
2. Please _____ your photo to the application form. (attach)
3. The teacher asked the students to _____ the results of their experiment. (report)
4. Earth is the only _____ in our solar system known to support life. (planet)
5. The box _____ all my childhood toys. (contains)

Choose the correct word to complete each sentence:

1. The rain stopped _____ and the sun came out. (probably/suddenly)
2. Koalas are _____ to Australia. (native/ordinary)
3. The _____ of this meeting is to plan the school fair. (purpose/region)
4. Students should _____ properly during the assembly. (behave/scatter)
5. Can you _____ how this machine works? (explain/discuss)

Difficult Words (30 words)

These more challenging words will help you express yourself with greater precision and understand more complex texts.

51. Absolutely

Definition: Completely or totally.

Example: *"I am absolutely certain that I locked the door."*

Tip: When something is absolute, there are no exceptions or limitations.

52. Acknowledge

Definition: To accept or admit the existence or truth of something.

Example: *"He acknowledged his mistake and apologised."*

Tip: To acknowledge something is to recognise it formally or admit its existence.

53. Advantage

Definition: A condition or circumstance that puts one in a favourable position.

Example: *"Being tall gives her an advantage in basketball."*

Tip: An advantage helps you move ahead or succeed more easily than others.

54. Boundary

Definition: A line that marks the limit of an area.

Example: *"The fence marks the boundary between the two properties."*

Tip: Boundaries define where one thing ends and another begins – think of borders on a map.

55. Category

Definition: A group of people or things that have similar characteristics.

Example: *"We sorted the books into different categories based on their subjects."*

Tip: Categories help organise information or items by grouping similar things together.

56. Community

Definition: A group of people living in the same place or having characteristics in common.

Example: *"Our local community works together to keep the neighbourhood clean."*

Tip: Communities share something in common – location, interests, or goals.

57. Competition

Definition: An event in which people compete against each other.

Example: *"She entered the spelling competition and won first place."*

Tip: Competition involves trying to be better than others at something.

58. Confidence

Definition: The feeling or belief that you can do something well or succeed at something.

Example: *"With practice, she gained confidence in her swimming abilities."*

Tip: Confidence comes from within – it's belief in yourself and your abilities.

59. Consider

Definition: To think about something carefully.

Example: *"Please consider all options before making your decision."*

Tip: When you consider something, you think about it from different angles or perspectives.

60. Creative

Definition: Having or showing imagination and artistic or intellectual inventiveness.

Example: *"She found a creative solution to the problem."*

Tip: Creative people think of new ideas or approaches rather than following established patterns.

61. Creature

Definition: A living animal or fictional being.

Example: *"The deep sea contains many strange creatures we've never seen."*

Tip: A creature is something that is created – a living being of any kind.

62. Decision

Definition: A choice or judgement that you make after thinking.

Example: *"Making the decision to study hard improved her grades."*

Tip: A decision involves selecting one option and excluding others after consideration.

63. Demonstrate

Definition: To show or prove how something works or is done.

Example: *"The teacher will demonstrate how to solve the equation."*

Tip: When you demonstrate something, you're showing it clearly through example or action.

64. Discover

Definition: To find or learn something for the first time.

Example: *"Scientists discover new species of plants every year."*

Tip: Discovery involves finding something that was previously unknown or hidden.

65. Effective

Definition: Successful in producing a desired or intended result.

Example: *"Regular exercise is an effective way to improve health."*

Tip: Something effective works well and produces the results you want.

66. Environment

Definition: The surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives.

Example: *"We need to protect the environment for future generations."*

Tip: Your environment includes everything around you – natural and human-made.

67. Expensive

Definition: Costing a lot of money.

Example: *"Diamonds are expensive because they are rare."*

Tip: Expensive items require you to expend (spend) more money than usual.

68. Experience

Definition: Practical contact with and observation of facts or events.

Example: *"Travelling abroad was a valuable experience for the students."*

Tip: Experiences are things that happen to you that affect how you feel or what you know.

69. Generation

Definition: All the people born and living at about the same time.

Example: *"The younger generation is very comfortable using technology."*

Tip: A generation typically spans about 20-30 years – think of the relationship between grandparents, parents, and children.

70. Hesitate

Definition: To pause before saying or doing something, often through uncertainty.

Example: *"Don't hesitate to ask questions if you don't understand."*

Tip: When you hesitate, you pause briefly – usually because you're unsure or reluctant.

71. Honest

Definition: Truthful and not likely to steal, cheat, or lie.

Example: *"Please give me your honest opinion about my drawing."*

Tip: Honest people tell the truth even when it might be difficult.

72. Imagination

Definition: The ability to form pictures or ideas in your mind.

Example: *"Children often have vivid imaginations and create fantastic stories."*

Tip: Imagination allows you to create mental images of things that aren't physically present or real.

73. Improvement

Definition: The act or process of making something better.

Example: *"We've seen a great improvement in her reading skills this year."*

Tip: Improvement involves change that makes something better than before.

74. Intelligence

Definition: The ability to learn, understand, and think about things.

Example: *"The intelligence test measured different types of thinking skills."*

Tip: Intelligence involves mental abilities like reasoning, problem-solving, and understanding complex ideas.

75. Journey

Definition: The act of travelling from one place to another.

Example: *"The journey to the mountain top took several hours."*

Tip: A journey can be physical (travelling somewhere) or metaphorical (a process of personal growth).

76. Knowledge

Definition: Information, understanding, and skills gained through experience or education.

Example: *"Reading books increases your knowledge about the world."*

Tip: Knowledge is what you know – the facts, information, and understanding you've acquired.

77. Measure

Definition: To find the size, amount, or degree of something using standard units.

Example: "We need to measure the width of the doorway before buying new furniture."

Tip: Measuring involves determining quantity using specific units like centimetres, litres, or kilograms.

78. Opportunity

Definition: A favourable time or chance for doing something.

Example: "The school excursion provided an opportunity to visit the museum."

Tip: An opportunity is a good chance or suitable time to do something you want to do.

79. Responsible

Definition: Having an obligation to do something as part of one's job or role.

Example: "You are responsible for completing your homework on time."

Tip: Being responsible means you can be trusted to do what you're supposed to do.

80. Unique

Definition: Being the only one of its kind; unlike anything else.

Example: "Every person has a unique set of fingerprints."

Tip: Something unique is one of a kind – there is nothing else exactly like it.

Practice Exercises: Difficult Words

Complete each sentence with the appropriate difficult word:

1. She was _____ certain that she had locked the door. (absolutely)

2. Being tall gives him an _____ in basketball. (advantage)
3. Please _____ all options before making your final decision. (consider)
4. The teacher will _____ how to solve this type of problem. (demonstrate)
5. Regular practice led to a significant _____ in her piano playing. (improvement)

Match each word with its definition:

1. Environment – a) A favourable time or chance
2. Confidence – b) The surroundings in which something exists
3. Journey – c) Being the only one of its kind
4. Opportunity – d) The act of travelling from one place to another
5. Unique – e) Belief in your abilities

Challenging Words (20 words)

These are the most advanced vocabulary words in our list. Mastering these words will significantly enhance your language skills and help you excel in NAPLAN tests.

81. Accumulate

Definition: To gather or collect a growing number or quantity of something over time.

Example: "Over years of collecting, he has accumulated hundreds of stamps."

Tip: Think of accumulation as a gradual process – things pile up or increase over time.

82. Beneficial

Definition: Resulting in good; favourable or helpful.

Example: "Regular exercise is beneficial for physical and mental health."

Tip: Beneficial things provide benefits or advantages – they help in some way.

83. Circumstance

Definition: The conditions or facts that accompany or determine an event or situation.

Example: "Under different circumstances, we might have become friends."

Tip: Circumstances are the conditions or situation in which something happens – the surrounding facts or events.

84. Collaborate

Definition: To work jointly with others on an activity or project.

Example: *"The students will collaborate on the science presentation."*

Tip: Collaboration involves working together – the "co-" prefix means "together".

85. Commemorate

Definition: To recall and show respect for someone or something important.

Example: *"We commemorate Anzac Day to remember those who served in wars."*

Tip: To commemorate means to honour the memory of something significant – often through a ceremony or memorial.

86. Consequence

Definition: The result or effect of an action or condition.

Example: *"As a consequence of staying up late, she was tired the next day."*

Tip: Consequences follow (come after) actions – every action has consequences.

87. Conscious

Definition: Aware of and responding to one's surroundings; awake.

Example: *"She was conscious of people watching her performance."*

Tip: Being conscious means being aware or alert – the opposite of unconscious.

88. Controversy

Definition: Prolonged public disagreement or heated discussion.

Example: *"The new school policy caused controversy among parents."*

Tip: Controversy involves opposing views that create debate or argument – people disagree strongly about the topic.

89. Courageous

Definition: Not deterred by danger or pain; brave.

Example: *"The courageous firefighter ran into the burning building to save the child."*

Tip: Courageous people show courage – they face fear or danger without backing down.

90. Dramatically

Definition: In a way that relates to sudden and striking changes.

Example: *"Her health improved dramatically after she started eating better."*

Tip: When something changes dramatically, it changes notably or significantly – there's a big difference.

91. Efficient

Definition: Achieving maximum productivity with minimum wasted effort or expense.

Example: *"The new system is more efficient and saves time."*

Tip: Efficiency involves getting things done well with minimal waste of resources (time, energy, money).

92. Extraordinary

Definition: Very unusual, special, unexpected, or strange.

Example: *"The young musician has extraordinary talent."*

Tip: Extraordinary things are beyond ordinary – they stand out as remarkable or exceptional.

93. Fascinating

Definition: Extremely interesting or captivating.

Example: "We watched a fascinating documentary about marine life."

Tip: Fascinating things hold your attention completely – they captivate or intrigue you.

94. Fundamental

Definition: Forming a necessary base or core; central to.

Example: "Understanding fractions is fundamental to learning more advanced maths."

Tip: Fundamental elements are essential or basic – they form the foundation of something.

95. Inconsequential

Definition: Not important or significant.

Example: "The small spelling error was inconsequential to the overall message."

Tip: Inconsequential things don't matter much – they have no important consequences or effects.

96. Irresponsible

Definition: Not showing a proper sense of responsibility.

Example: "It is irresponsible to leave young children alone at home."

Tip: The prefix "ir-" means "not," so irresponsible means "not responsible" – failing to do what is expected or required.

97. Misconstrue

Definition: To interpret words or actions wrongly.

Example: "He misconstrued her comment as criticism when she was actually trying to help."

Tip: When you misconstrue something, you misunderstand it or interpret it incorrectly.

98. Necessary

Definition: Needed to be done, achieved, or present; essential.

Example: *"It is necessary to bring water when hiking on a hot day."*

Tip: Necessary things are required or essential – they cannot be done without.

99. Significance

Definition: The quality of being worthy of attention; importance.

Example: *"The significance of this discovery cannot be underestimated."*

Tip: Something with significance has meaning or importance – it matters for some reason.

100. Thoroughly

Definition: In a complete or absolute manner.

Example: *"Make sure you thoroughly check your work before submitting it."*

Tip: When you do something thoroughly, you do it completely and carefully, without missing anything.

Practice Exercises: Challenging Words

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate challenging word:

1. Over time, he has _____ a large collection of rare coins. (accumulated)
2. The students will _____ on the group project. (collaborate)
3. As a _____ of not studying, she failed the test. (consequence)
4. The firefighter showed _____ behaviour by running into the burning building.
(courageous)
5. It is _____ to wear a seatbelt when driving. (necessary)

Choose the best word to complete each sentence:

1. The documentary was _____ and held everyone's attention. (efficient/fascinating)
2. She was _____ of the impression she was making on the judges.
(conscious/controversy)

3. Understanding the basics is _____ to mastering any skill.
(fundamental/inconsequential)
4. His grades improved _____ after he got a tutor. (dramatically/misconstrue)
5. Regular exercise is _____ to good health. (beneficial/irresponsible)

Summary and Study Tips

Congratulations on working through these 100 must-know vocabulary words for NAPLAN! Here are some effective strategies to help you remember and use these words:

- **Regular review:** Spend a few minutes each day reviewing words you've learned.
- **Use in context:** Try to use these words in your own sentences, both in writing and speaking.
- **Word connections:** Group related words together and understand how they connect.
- **Visual aids:** Create flashcards with the word on one side and the definition and an example on the other.
- **Word families:** Notice words that share the same root or come from the same origin.
- **Read widely:** Look for these words in books, articles, and other texts.
- **Practice tests:** Complete practice NAPLAN tests to apply your vocabulary knowledge.

Remember, building a strong vocabulary is an ongoing process. The more you use these words, the more comfortable you'll become with them. Good luck with your NAPLAN tests!