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# LANGUAGE AND LITERACY SKILLS ARE KEY FOR SUCCESS IN LIFE

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Our understanding of vocabulary is essential for **comprehending** what we hear. Obviously we will have difficulty following conversation, directions etc. if that spoken language contains words with which we are unfamiliar.

Our understanding of vocabulary is also essential for comprehending what we read because **reading is a language-based activity** and **comprehension is the primary goal** of most reading. Vocabulary knowledge can provide the **contextual** support that often allows us to **predict and identify unfamiliar words**.

In English we use a **symbol system** that represents the **sounds** of words. A sound is also called a phoneme. Thus we refer to **phonemic awareness** – the **conscious awareness of the sequence of sounds in words**.

SO – if we know the sound/s or pronunciation of a word as well as the meaning or definition of the word, these are the key elements.  
**OPTIONARY FOCUSSES ON THESE 2 KEY ELEMENTS.**