

## Retrieval Practice at Language Angels

At Language Angels we do not believe that retrieval practice means simply revisiting previously learnt language. We provide opportunities to recall previously learnt language but also allow pupils opportunities to use it in new contexts wherever possible. The aim is to encourage better memory skills with longer term retention and to also enhance a pupil's overall language learning experience.

There are two main 'layers' of language introduced to pupils.

The first is the '**non-negotiable**' language. This is the language and vocabulary we expect all pupils to cover using our resources, the language all pupils should be able to recall (ideally from memory) by the time they leave primary phase as it makes up the foundations of language learning for secondary phase.

The second layer of language is the rich and varied language, vocabulary, grammatical concepts and linguistic structures that accompany and develop alongside the non-negotiable language. It is the combination and blending of these two layers of language that gives pupils a rich, deep and comprehensive understanding of the language they are studying. This helps develop confident and competent **linguists** as opposed to 'human dictionaries' that may know lots of words in the foreign language but aren't able to use or understand these words fluently, accurately and in full phrases to communicate effectively in the foreign language.

Not all of the language presented in all of the units taught will need to be constantly revisited. The more language pupils can retain the better, but the non-negotiable language is the most important and is what should be revisited most often to start with.

There are a wide variety of retrieval opportunities available on the Language Angels platform and staff should use what suits the needs of their pupils best. They are as follows:

- All **non-negotiable language** is documented on the '**Core Vocabulary Mat**'. This is designed to be a pupil-friendly, visual documentation of the language so pupils can use it as a reference tool as often as required. This can be found in Planning & Guidance > Curriculum Guidance > Step 4: Our Methodology.

- All **non-negotiable language** is recycled and revisited in many units and as often as possible, so that pupils have numerous opportunities to see and hear this language repeatedly. Retrieval is built into the sequencing of units, with varying levels of challenge as pupils move from our Early Language through to Intermediate and finally Progressive teaching types.
- All non-negotiable language is also offered in a series of '**one-off lessons**', found in the 'Extras' section of your teaching resources. If teachers feel they want to revisit core language at any point in the language learning journey, they can use these standalone lessons.
- All units have built-in retrieval slides at the beginning of lessons, so anything covered in a previous lesson is automatically revisited through a task before new knowledge is introduced.
- In our Early Language, Intermediate and Progressive teaching type units, the final lesson (lesson 6) is always a full revision lesson where we revisit all of the language covered in that unit followed by optional assessment activities.
- There are Pupil Knowledge Organisers and Unit Glossaries provided for all units. These are useful reference tools that pupils can access when required and it is recommended that pupils have a copy of these for all units taught.
- Songs, games and interactive activities are available and can be used in class as often as required. These have all been created in-house to support teaching and learning and are excellent retrieval tools as they are completely aligned with the lesson content. Pupils can access the games and songs outside of lessons to aid retention and retrieval using our free companion app.