

10 Essential Vocabulary WOW (Words of the Week)

(from chapters 6-8 of *Britt-Marie Was Here* by Fredrik Backman)

The following 10 words have been selected for this week's study because they will help you communicate more effectively and confidently in everyday situations.

- ✓ You'll use them in real conversations with teachers, doctors, neighbors, and friends
- ✓ They help you understand written materials (news, forms, letters) better
- ✓ They make you sound more educated and confident
- ✓ They help you express exactly what you mean with more precision
- ✓ They work in many different situations – not just one specific context
- ✓ They help you participate fully in your community as an educated adult

Here's why each one is valuable:

1. **collect** – Essential for managing stressful situations. When you "collect yourself," you regain composure and calm. Use it when discussing difficult moments: "I needed a moment to collect myself before responding."
2. **concern** – Essential for expressing what worries or affects you. When something "concerns you," it affects or worries you. Very useful: "That doesn't concern me" (not my business), "What concerns me most is..." (what worries me), "This concerns everyone" (affects everyone). More sophisticated than just saying "worry."
3. **slip** – Describes both physical movement and accidental speech. Very useful: "That comment just slipped out" or "The opportunity slipped away." Adds nuance to your storytelling.
4. **charge** – Vivid verb for describing forceful movement. Better than just "moved quickly." "She charged into the room" creates a clear mental picture.
5. **conviction** – Expresses strong beliefs with confidence. "I have the conviction that education matters" sounds more powerful than "I believe." Essential for persuasive speech.
6. **propose** – Professional way to make formal suggestions. "I propose we meet next week" is more sophisticated than "let's meet." Essential for work meetings, negotiations, and formal discussions. Shows you can communicate at a professional level.
7. **faith** – Beyond religious meaning, it means trust or confidence. "I have faith in my children's abilities" or "You need to have a little faith." Shows emotional depth.
8. **associate** – Professional term for colleagues or business connections. "She's a business associate" sounds more formal than "friend" or "coworker." Important in networking.
9. **settle** – Multiple useful meanings: come to rest ("dust settled"), calm down ("settle down"), or resolve ("settle a disagreement"). Very versatile in conversation.
10. **assume** – Extremely common in daily conversation. "I assume you received my email?" is more polite than "Did you get my email?" Shows sophistication in communication.

The goal: Expand your vocabulary so you can express yourself with the sophistication and precision that matches your education and intelligence.

1. **collect** (verb) /kə'lekt/ kuh-LEKT: "So Britt-Marie collects herself and says" (p. 62). Definition: If you collect yourself, you make an effort to control yourself so that you can speak and act calmly.
2. **concern** (verb) /kən'sɜːrn/ kun-SURN: "The chill doesn't concern her" (p. 68). Definition: If something concerns you, it worries you.
3. **slip** (verb) /slɪp/ slip: "That last bit just slips out of her" (p. 65). Definition: If something slips out, you say it accidentally when you didn't mean to.
4. **charge** (verb) /tʃɑːrdʒ/ charj: "'Are you blind, or what?' the woman roars as she turns around and charges directly into Britt-Marie" (p. 61). Definition: If you charge somewhere, you move quickly and rather violently.
5. **conviction** (noun) /kən'vɪkʃən/ kun-VIK-shun: "They glare at each other, filled with mutual conviction that the opposing party is utterly deranged" (p. 39). Definition: A conviction is a strong belief or opinion.
6. **propose** (verb) /prə'pəʊz/ pruh-POHZ: "I would like to propose a working arrangement" (p. 69). Definition: If you propose something, you suggest it as a plan or course of action.
7. **faith** (noun) /feɪθ/ fayth: "The winter requires whoever is doing the watering to have a bit of faith, in order to believe that what looks empty has every potential" (p. 42). Definition: If you have faith in someone or something, you feel confident about their ability or goodness.
8. **associate** (noun) /ə'soʊʃiət/ uh-SOH-shee-ut: "She made no friends of her own, just the odd acquaintance, usually the wife of one of Kent's business associates" (p. 46). Definition: Your associates are the people you are closely connected with, especially at work.
9. **settle** (verb) /'setl/ SET-ul: "The rat comes in through the open door at twenty past six. It settles on the threshold and focuses a very watchful gaze on the Snickers bar" (p. 68). Definition: If something settles, it sinks slowly down and becomes still.
10. **assume** (verb) /ə'suːm/ uh-SOOM: "She assumes that she has what is sometimes in crossword clues known as an 'out-of-body experience'" (p. 63). Definition: If you assume that something is true, you imagine that it is true, sometimes wrongly.