**Screening your students**

Before suggesting tools and activities for autonomous learning, it makes sense to screen your students first. The screening can be done in the form of a questionnaire or an interview. Basically, these are the questions you need an answer to:

* What are my student’s preconditions for autonomous learning?
* What are my student’s needs and wants with regard to vocabulary?

**Preconditions**

These correspond largely to the learner variables we use in the first screening of tools and activities:

* Languages
* Level
* Purpose
* Format
* Feedback
* Own input
* Own decision
* Money
* Interaction

You can have a questionnaire or an interview with your students asking them about their requirements regarding each of these variables. Their answers will provide you with guidelines for suggesting an appropriate tool, either by comparing them to the screenings done by the Flame project members or by using the document ‘template learner variables’ and screen any new tool or activity yourself.

**Needs and wants**

To establish your student’s needs, you will have to find out the current level of his/her vocabulary and determine which words the student needs to learn, practise or repeat. It is also advisable to determine to what extent the learner needs to master these words (receptively or productively), how the student will use them predominantly (speaking, writing, reading, listening) and in what contexts the learner will encounter these words (professional, personal, academic…).

They could be words from the course, but since the ultimate goal is to stimulate autonomous (and thus course-independent) learning , they should also include gaps in the general vocabulary, words the student needs privately or professionaly, words the student wants to learn, etc…

Most of this information can be gathered by simply asking the student (self-assessment, questionnaire, interview). Tools that may help you analyse your student’s vocabulary level include vocabulary tests, spoken and written texts written by the student, a portfolio, previous tests or exams…