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## EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES AND TECHNIQUES OF TEACHING ENGLISH VOCABULARY

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### ABSTRACT

*This article dedicates effective strategies and tactics implemented in learning vocabulary of Modern English. This is because vocabulary is an important and essential element in language learning. In order to communicate well in a foreign language, students should acquire an adequate number of words and should know how to use them accurately.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Vocabulary, Strategies, Denote, Introduce, Identify, Memory, Understand, Dictionary.*

*"Without grammar very little can be conveyed, without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed."*

*(D. Wilkins)*

### INTRODUCTION

In learning a foreign language, vocabulary plays an important role. It is one element that links the four skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing all together. Before they master the four skills they have to know some vocabularies to support them in learning English. Students only think of vocabulary learning as knowing the primary meaning of new words from the teacher or check the meaning from dictionary. Up till now, there has not been only one but a wide variety of definitions of vocabulary. In order to find the best and most easy-to-understand definition is such an unfeasible task. Each linguist or scholar, in his specialized field, with his own set of criteria has found out for his own way to define vocabulary. However, in the most popular way, Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary Online has applied a meaning for vocabulary as "all the words which exist in a particular language or subject." This definition covers vocabulary's meaning on the whole. Nevertheless, it does not show vocabulary in a deep understanding. More

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precisely, Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English presents six meanings of the word “Vocabulary” as follow:

1. All the words that someone knows, learns or uses.
2. The words that are typically used when talking about a particular subject.
3. All the words in a particular language.
4. The word failure/ compromises, etc. is not in somebody’s vocabulary used to say that someone never thinks of accepting failures, etc.
5. A list of words with explanations of their meaning in a book for learning foreign languages.
6. A list of the codes or terms used in a computer system.

The analysis of the words within the foreign language allows us to distinguish the following groups of words: concrete, abstract and structural.

Words denoting concrete things, actions and qualities are easier to learn than words denoting abstract notions. Structural words are the most difficult for Russian-speaking learners. The teacher should bear this in mind when preparing for the vocabulary work during the lesson.

Introduce words in sentence patterns in different situations of intercourse.

Present the word as an element, i.e. in a sentence pattern first. Then fix it in the pupils’ memory through different exercises in sentence patterns and phrase patterns. In teaching pupils vocabulary to the ear and the organs of speech should take an active part in the assimilation of words. Learners should have ample practice in hearing words and pronouncing them not only as isolated units but in various sentences in which they occur.

While introducing a word pronounces it yourself in content, ask learners to pronounce it both individually and in unison in a context, too.

In teaching words it is necessary to establish a memory bond between a new word and those already covered.

Perhaps the most important factor in a successful vocabulary-building program is motivation. It will be very difficult for you to study words month after month without a strong feeling that it is worth doing, that a larger vocabulary will help on the job, and that it can well lead to a more exciting and fulfilling life.

We identify four basic steps to a better vocabulary:

1. Be Aware of Words
2. Read
3. Study and Review Regularly

While there are not any magic shortcuts to learning words, the larger your vocabulary becomes, the easier it will be to connect a new word with words you already know, and thus remember its meaning.

1. Be Aware of Words

Many people are surprised when they are told they have small vocabularies. "But I read all the time!" they protest. This shows that reading alone may not be enough to make you learn new words. When we read a novel, for instance, there is usually a strong urge to get on with the story and skip over unfamiliar or perhaps vaguely known words. But while it is obvious when a word is totally unknown to you, you have to be especially aware of words that seem familiar to you but whose precise meanings you may not really know. Instead of avoiding these words, you will need to take a closer look at them. First, try to guess at a word's meaning from its context - that is, the sense of the passage in which it appears; second, if you have a dictionary on hand, look up the word's meaning immediately. This may slow down your reading somewhat, but your improved understanding of each new word will eventually speed your learning of other words, making reading easier. Make a daily practice of noting words of interest to you for further study whenever you are reading, listening to the radio, talking to friends, or watching television.

## 2. Read

When you have become more aware of words, reading is the next important step to increasing your knowledge of words, because that is how you will find most of the words you should be learning. It is also the best way to check on words you have already learned. When you come across a word you have recently studied, and you understand it, that proves you have learned its meaning. What should you read? Whatever interests you - whatever make you want to read. If you like sports, read the sports page of the newspapers; read magazines like Sports Illustrated; read books about your favorite athletes. If you are interested in interior decorating, read a magazine like House Beautiful- read it, don't just look at the photographs. Often people with very low vocabularies don't enjoy reading at all. It's more of a chore for them than a pleasure because they don't understand many of the words. If this is the way you feel about reading, try reading easier things. Newspapers are usually easier than magazines; a magazine like Reader's Digest is easier to read than The Atlantic Monthly. There is no point in trying to read something you simply are not able to understand or are not interested in. The important idea is to find things to read you can enjoy, and to read as often and as much as possible with the idea of learning new words always in mind.

## 3. Study and Review Regularly

Once you have begun looking up words and you know which ones to study, vocabulary building is simply a matter of reviewing the words regularly until you fix them in your memory. This is best done by setting aside a specific amount of time each day for vocabulary study. During that time you can look up new words you have noted during the day and review old words you are in the process of learning. Set a goal for the number of words you would like to learn and by what date, and arrange your schedule accordingly. Fifteen minutes a day will bring better results than half an hour once a week or so. However, if half an hour a week is all the time you have to spare, start with that. You may find more time later on, and you will be moving in the right direction. Teaching a word does not cause its automatic learning by the students. That is one of the first things teachers realize when they start teaching. It would be wonderful if finishing a unit of the course book meant that the students master all the words in it. Unfortunately, a lot of work (recycling, vocabulary notebooks keeping, memory techniques ...) has to be done before students thoroughly know a word. The activities which follow have been tested on students and provide a practical suggestion for a systematic approach to vocabulary learning.

In conclusion, teachers should prepare themselves for the following strategies and tactics for teaching vocabulary of Modern English, because foreign language training will be more efficient.

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