

EFFECTIVE WAYS OF TEACHING VOCABULARY: HOW TO TEACH TEN WORDS AT A TIME?

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.11402554>

Nazarova Dilshodakhon Ochildinovna

*National University of Uzbekistan
named after Mirzo Ulugbek*

Abstract

The current article aims at providing general information about vocabulary and effective ways of teaching vocabulary in foreign language classes. The article deals with the topic "How to teach ten words at a time?" and suggests different methods of teaching ten words at a time. Some strategies and suggested methods are also discussed in the article by examples.

Key Words

a definition, a receptive vocabulary, an expressive vocabulary, word meanings, morphemic analysis, retention, application, different contexts, high-frequency words.

English has already become one of the most important and influential languages of the 21st century. On almost all continents of the world people are speaking and learning English and this language undoubtedly became the language of technology, development and digital tools. At this time, how to improve English to academic level is a really important issue for all language learners and language teachers, so effective ways of teaching vocabulary is an actual issue that stands before language teachers. Effective vocabulary instruction plays a crucial role in language learning and proficiency. In this digital era, we face the English language everywhere, nearly in all branches and spheres of our society. Ultimately, a strong vocabulary foundation equips students with the linguistic tools needed to succeed academically, professionally, and personally, enabling them to navigate the complexities of language with confidence and proficiency. How to increase vocabulary and how to teach it effectively? The following article discusses some effective ways of teaching vocabulary.

Vocabulary is defined as a collection of words and their definitions. A person's vocabulary is the sum total of words that they know and can use appropriately. Learners have both a receptive vocabulary (words they can understand) and an expressive vocabulary (words they can use). Individuals interact with language in

four ways: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Experts identify three tiers of vocabulary:

Tier One: Tier One vocabulary consists of general words that most people learn, know, and use without effort in their first language. Basic conversational components are considered Tier One vocabulary, from everyday objects, people, places, and actions to simple descriptors. Examples of Tier One vocabulary include words like child, ball, run, cold, and hungry.

Tier Two: Tier Two includes high-frequency words that can be found across multiple subjects and may have multiple meanings. Tier Two also includes specific and targeted descriptive language. Learners are less likely to use Tier Two words in conversation but may find the words in written text. Sometimes, Tier Two vocabulary is called academic vocabulary. Examples of Tier Two vocabulary include words like generous, invite, negative, and investigate.

Tier Three: Tier Three vocabulary is context-specific vocabulary necessary for understanding a specific hobby or discipline. Tier Three words are low frequency. Examples of Tier Three words include exponent, photosynthesis, purl, and longitude.

Teaching vocabulary is really important at every grade level and in every subject. Early elementary students need to learn academic vocabulary that provides the building blocks for later learning experiences. Each year, students build on previously learned vocabulary and deepen their understanding of each topic of study. For example, elementary students learn to define plot, character, and setting. Later, middle and high school students expand their understanding to terms like protagonist and denouement. Science students learn vocabulary related to each topic, such as the elements in chemistry. Students also improve their reading comprehension when they are taught words that provide nuance and depth of meaning. For example, students learn to replace the word "eat" with synonyms that show shades of meaning such as graze, devour, consume, and gobble.

English language learners often require additional support in their vocabulary development. All students benefit from explicit, cross-curricular vocabulary instruction.[1]

Teaching vocabulary involves the deliberate and systematic instruction of words to enhance students' understanding, communication skills, and language development. It encompasses various strategies and techniques aimed at introducing, reinforcing, and practicing new words in meaningful contexts. Effective vocabulary instruction includes explicit teaching of word meanings, multiple exposures to words, contextual learning, and active student engagement

to promote retention and application of vocabulary in reading, writing, and speaking.

What are some strategies to teach vocabulary?

Vocabulary teaching strategies include a variety of activities intended to engage students in actively understanding a word's definition and in using the word repeatedly. Some examples include:

- Word walls
- Vocabulary journals
- Frayer method
- Word games
- Morphemic analysis

How do teachers teach vocabulary?

Research into vocabulary learning indicates that teachers need to teach vocabulary in all subjects and at all grade levels. Words should be selected carefully to ensure that the words will enhance students' academic understanding and be relevant to the student. Instruction should be direct and explicit and occur in a rich, meaningful context. Teachers should involve students in active learning activities to enhance comprehension and memory, and tasks should be restructured when students struggle to increase the opportunity for student success.

Teachers at all grade levels can employ a variety of vocabulary strategies in the classroom. Using different strategies at different times increases student engagement and addresses the needs of learners with different learning styles. The following are examples of how to teach vocabulary.

Morphemic Analysis

Teaching vocabulary strategies equips students to infer the meaning of new words on their own. Morphemic analysis is an excellent vocabulary strategy. Morphemic analysis refers to the analysis of a word's parts, such as roots, prefixes, and suffixes. After learning the meaning of common roots, prefixes, and suffixes, students can find words for each word part. Once students are familiar with the parts of words, they can learn how to use the parts of an unfamiliar vocabulary word to infer the word's meaning. In addition, knowledge of roots and affixes can make it easier to remember the word's meaning.

Vocabulary Journals

A vocabulary journal is a notebook where a student collects vocabulary words and their meanings. Vocabulary journals can be set up in different formats. Following are a few examples.

- The teacher assigns a new word each day or week, and the student creates a sentence and illustration.

- The student records unknown words found in independent reading. Later, the student looks up the definition and adds it to the notebook. Students might also record the book where they found the word or draw a picture related to the word.

- Students write topical vocabulary related to class study and include example sentences.

- Vocabulary journals allow students to easily reference the vocabulary they learn throughout the year and to track their progress in vocabulary learning.

Foldables

Like the vocabulary journal, a vocabulary foldable is a method for a student to record and remember the meanings of new vocabulary words. A foldable is a single sheet of paper folded in half lengthwise. The top fold is cut into five flaps. On the outside of each flap, students write a word and draw a picture related to the word's meaning. When the flap is opened, it reveals the word's definition and a sentence containing the word. Students create foldables and use them for word practice. Vocabulary foldables are useful in all subject areas.

Word Walls

Word walls are used in classrooms in a variety of ways. In the most basic sense, a word wall is a group of words hanging in a visible location in the classroom, such as a wall or bulletin board. Words on a word wall may be arranged alphabetically or topically. Examples of word wall themes include a collection of sight words, a set of vocabulary related to a science or social studies unit, or a selection of words related to a targeted writing skill. Some word walls are constructed by teachers and intended to display targeted vocabulary. Students can consult the word walls when discussing or writing about a relevant topic. Other word walls are constructed cooperatively, with teacher and students contributing words of interest. An example would be a teacher challenging students to identify descriptive language in their independent reading and add new words to a descriptive language word wall. [1]

Besides above discussed strategies there are some other alternative teaching methods for vocabulary acquisition and they include:

Semantic Mapping:

Visual tools like semantic maps help students connect words and related concepts, aiding in understanding and retention. By visually displaying relationships between words and concepts, students can better grasp how words fit together.

Frayer Model:

The Frayer model is a graphic organizer that requires students to define a vocabulary word and list its characteristics, examples, and nonexamples. This method helps students extend their knowledge of words and concepts across different subject areas.

Vocabulary Review Activities:

Engaging students in brief review activities like partner reviews, sentence creation, examples and nonexamples, and word fitting exercises. These activities provide multiple opportunities for students to practice using new words, aiding in retention and application.

These methods offer interactive and engaging ways to teach vocabulary, catering to different learning styles and enhancing students' understanding and retention of new words. [2]

Games have always been interesting in language learning for any age and any level learners because of creating challenging atmosphere. So different vocabulary games can also be used as effective tools to teach vocabulary by engaging students in interactive and enjoyable learning experiences. By incorporating gaming principles into vocabulary instruction, educators can enhance student participation, foster social and emotional learning, and motivate students to take risks in their language acquisition. Research shows that games can improve focus, attention, and attitudes toward learning, making them valuable for vocabulary development, especially for students with learning differences like ADHD or dyslexia. Additionally, games encourage collaboration, teamwork, and community-building, creating a dynamic and engaging classroom environment that supports vocabulary acquisition and retention.

Some examples of vocabulary games for different age groups include:

For Young Learners (Ages 3-8):

- Banana Race: A quiz game where children answer questions to move their "banana" towards the finish line.
- Memory Cards: A card-matching game where students match words with their definitions.
- Verb Charades: A game similar to Pictionary but with simple verbs for young children to guess.

For Elementary and Middle School Students:

- Go Fish Vocabulary: A card game where students define words instead of saying them to guess the word.

- Basketball Card Line-Up: A game where students say the card and move closer to a basket to shoot a basket.

- Synonym Matching: A game where students match synonyms on worksheets.

For Upper Elementary to High School Students:

- Video Game Vocabulary Game: A digital game that immerses students in a world of words, gold coins, and more.

- Mother, May I? Vocabulary Version: A game where students move based on vocabulary challenges.

- Baseball-Inspired Vocabulary Game: A game that engages students in a vocabulary spin-off similar to Scattegories.

These games cater to different age groups and offer engaging ways to learn and practice vocabulary in a fun and interactive manner. [3]

Introducing new vocabulary effectively is a crucial aspect of language learning. A strategic approach of teaching vocabulary by focusing on ten words at a time is really essential for language teachers and learners. By breaking down the learning process into manageable chunks, educators and learners can enhance retention, comprehension, and application of new words. This method not only aids in expanding vocabulary but also cultivates a deeper understanding of language nuances and usage. Here we are going to explore the benefits and techniques of teaching vocabulary in sets of ten, empowering language learners to master new words with confidence and proficiency.

Teaching vocabulary in sets of ten words at a time can be a strategic and effective approach to language learning. By focusing on a manageable number of words, educators can provide students with a structured and digestible way to expand their vocabulary. Here are some key steps to effectively teach ten words at a time:

1. **Selecting Words:** Choose words that are relevant to the students' level, interests, and learning objectives. Consider including a mix of high-frequency words, content-specific terms, and words that connect to the current lesson or theme.

2. **Introducing Words:** Present the ten words in context, using sentences, stories, or visuals to help students understand their meanings. Encourage students to make connections between the new words and their existing knowledge.

3. **Exploring Meanings:** Break down the definitions of each word, discussing nuances, synonyms, antonyms, and usage examples. Encourage students to actively engage with the words through discussions, activities, and practice exercises.

4. **Repetition and Practice:** Provide opportunities for students to practice using the new words in various contexts. Incorporate activities like word games, role-plays, writing assignments, and discussions to reinforce vocabulary retention.

5. **Review and Assessment:** Regularly review the ten words to ensure retention and understanding. Use quizzes, flashcards, or interactive exercises to assess students' mastery of the vocabulary and provide feedback for improvement.

6. **Integration and Application:** Encourage students to use the new words in their everyday language, writing assignments, and discussions. Create opportunities for students to apply the vocabulary in real-life situations to solidify their understanding and usage.

By following these steps and incorporating engaging and interactive teaching methods, educators can effectively teach ten words at a time, helping students expand their vocabulary, improve their language skills, and enhance their overall communication abilities. [4]

Teaching vocabulary in sets of ten words can be an effective and manageable approach for both educators and learners. Here are some ways and methods to effectively teach ten words at a time:

Contextual Learning:

Introduce the ten words within a specific context or theme to provide a meaningful connection. Use sentences, stories, or real-life examples to illustrate the usage of each word in context.

Visual Aids:

Utilize visual aids such as flashcards, images, or diagrams to reinforce the meaning of each word. Encourage students to create their visual representations to enhance retention and understanding.

Word Games and Activities:

Engage students in interactive word games like crossword puzzles, word searches, or matching exercises. Incorporate activities such as charades, word association games, or vocabulary bingo to make learning fun and engaging.

Word Maps and Mind Mapping:

Create word maps or mind maps to visually organize and connect the ten words based on their relationships or categories. Encourage students to brainstorm synonyms, antonyms, or related words to deepen their understanding of each word.

Repetition and Practice:

Review the ten words regularly through quizzes, drills, or repetition exercises to reinforce retention. Encourage students to use the words in speaking, writing, or discussions to practice their application in different contexts.

Interactive Technology:

Incorporate interactive online tools and apps that offer vocabulary-building exercises and games. Use digital platforms for virtual flashcards, word quizzes, or interactive word puzzles to make learning engaging and accessible.

By incorporating these methods and strategies, educators can create a dynamic and effective learning environment for teaching vocabulary in sets of ten words at a time. This approach not only enhances vocabulary acquisition but also promotes deeper comprehension and retention of new words. [4]

Based on the search results, here are the key points about teaching ten words at a time:

1. There is no consensus among researchers on the optimal number of new words to teach per lesson. The commonly cited "8-10 words" guideline seems to lack a strong empirical basis.

2. The number of words to teach should depend on factors like:

- Whether the focus is on receptive (understanding) or productive (using) vocabulary

- Learner motivation and need for the particular words

- Opportunities for recycling and practicing the words within and across lessons

- Whether the words are taught in isolation or as part of "chunks" or lexical units

3. Researchers suggest that teaching 5-8 new words, along with related grammatical expressions, collocations, and idioms, may be a more realistic and effective target per lesson.

4. Explicitly teaching the relationships between words, their morphological roots, and how words "work" is more important than just memorizing definitions of individual words.

5. Using digital tools to analyze large text corpora can provide insights into the most frequent and useful words to focus vocabulary instruction on, rather than teaching words in isolation.

Overall teaching ten words at a time may be possible, researchers emphasize the importance of considering various contextual factors and focusing on building robust word knowledge rather than just memorizing definitions. A more flexible, evidence-based approach is recommended.

To sum up it is important to mention that effective vocabulary instruction is essential for language acquisition and communication skills development. By incorporating a variety of strategies such as contextual learning, visual aids, word games, and repetition, educators can create engaging and interactive learning experiences for students. Encouraging active participation, providing meaningful practice opportunities, and integrating technology can enhance vocabulary retention and application. Additionally, fostering a supportive and inclusive learning environment where students feel motivated to explore and expand their vocabulary is key to successful language learning. By implementing these effective ways of teaching vocabulary, educators can empower students to build a strong foundation of words, enhance their language proficiency, and ultimately, communicate more effectively in various contexts.

REFERENCES

1. [https://study.com/academy/lesson/strategies-for-teaching-vocabulary.html# lesson](https://study.com/academy/lesson/strategies-for-teaching-vocabulary.html#lesson)
2. Saunders, J. M. Vocabulary study strategies: Prevalence among L2 learners. *Polyglossia*, 2(5), 19-26, 2013.
3. <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/vocabulary/vocabulary-games>
4. <https://gianfrancoconti.com/2017/01/08/how-many-new-words-should-you-teach-per-lesson-the-wrong-question/>
5. Taylor, L. (1990). *Teaching and Learning Vocabulary*. Herefordshire: Prentice Hall.
6. Graves, M. F. (2006). *The Vocabulary Book: Learning and Instruction*. New York: Teachers College Press.
7. Edwards, L. (2009). *How to Teach Vocabulary*. Pearson: Pearson Education.