



WORD POWER - A FUNDAMENTAL GIZMO IN EAP CLASSROOMS

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Abstract

Words have power. Word power plays a vital foundation for all subjects and sharpens our communication. Word building and using of words is magnificence in forming a sentence. Vocabulary development is a process by which people acquire words. A person's vocabulary is the set of words within a language that are familiar to that person. A vocabulary usually develops with age, and serves as a useful and fundamental tool for communication and acquiring knowledge. Acquiring an extensive vocabulary is one of the largest challenges in learning a second language. Vocabulary development is a critical aspect of teaching. Vocabulary enrichment does not mean making rote-learning or memorizing words. It can be exciting. This paper helps in building good word power and its applications in present scenario

Keywords: Word power, magnificence, enrichment, acquisition

Introduction

The learning of language is an important programme in the life of a man. Whatever language we learn, we should be able to communicate effectively by using that language here the linguistic part of it is very significant. Our proficiency in that language is a must. It includes proper use of structures, vocabulary etc., in written as well as spoken form. Efficiency in language is the basis for effective communication. We should use the language in such a way that we are successful in communicating to others.

"Vocabularies are crossing circles and loops. We are defined by the lines we choose to cross or to be confined by." — [A.S. Byatt](#)





The word vocabulary entered the English [lexicon](#) in the 1530s and is derived from the Latin word 'vocabularium,' meaning 'a list of words.' It gained its modern meaning, the sum of all words known by a person, in the 1700s. Eminent writers such as William Shakespeare and Charles Dickens are known for their large vocabularies.

If the term is used to mean a list of words, there are several types of vocabulary. These can be divided, as with grammatical classes, into adjectives, [nouns](#) and [verbs](#). They could also be divided, as with the different fields of semantics, into categories as diverse as emotions, colors, animals and human body parts. When dealing with the types of vocabulary, the four types, including reading and writing, are the most commonly used.

A person's knowledge of words is divided into two broad types of vocabulary: the active and the passive. An active piece of vocabulary is a word a person uses and a passive word is one that a person understands, but does not use. There are several degrees of knowledge ranging from no understanding of a word to the full knowledge of the word's meaning, forms and how to use it.

A read vocabulary is a passive one. This means it is the words understood by the reader when he or she is reading a piece of written text. The person is able to recognize the form of the letters and how they correspond to one another, and how their sum is understood. This also includes understanding a word's spelling, meaning and the exact meaning in its context.

Listening is also a passive type of vocabulary. The listener is able to link the words being spoken to their meaning. This level of understanding is aided by word context, intonation and, if there is visual contact with the speaker, by gestures and facial expressions. Listening is, like reading, an interpretational form of vocabulary.

Writing is the active vocabulary equivalent to reading. With reading, it forms the core skills needed for someone to be literate. The writer demonstrates his or her knowledge of a word in terms of its meaning and how to spell it and use it correctly.

Speaking is one of the types of vocabulary that demonstrates a person's knowledge of words. It is an active demonstration that can also rely on other elements such as facial expressions, intonation, pitch and gestures to help others understand its meaning. Knowledge of a word is demonstrated by its good usage and pronunciation.

A good vocabulary gives a student confidence and assurance in both written and verbal communication, an increased affinity for reading, and better performance

Academic Vocabulary

Academic Vocabulary can be defined as words that are not tied to any particular course or content area. These are words that students may be exposed to during any subject or class, whether it is math or social science. Typically, these are words that regularly appear in





academic texts and tests, but Data WORKS has found that they are not often explicitly taught. Academic Vocabulary words often show up as the skill words in **Learning Objectives**, but can occur at any point during a lesson as well. Because of this, it is most effective to teach Academic Vocabulary words as they arise, within the context of a lesson.

Examples:

consist, constitute, distribute, establish, indicate, occur, significant, recognize, respond

Content Vocabulary

Contrasted with Academic Vocabulary, Content Vocabulary includes words that are specific to a given domain or subject area, rarely being found outside of their particular content area. Often, these words can be found directly in the content standards and are present as the concept words (typically nouns) in a Learning Objective. Content Vocabulary words are addressed extensively in the Concept Development of a lesson, through the use of clear definitions, examples, and **Checking For Understanding** questions, as these words and terms are frequently the foundation of a lesson.

Examples:

affixes, dialogue, exponents, circumference, cellular respiration, photosynthesis, legislature

Support Vocabulary

The third, and final, type of vocabulary (as identified by Data WORKS) is Support Vocabulary. Support Vocabulary consists of any remaining words that ELs (and all other students) need to know in order to understand a particular sentence or phrase used in a lesson. Support Vocabulary words are unrelated to grade-level concepts and skills and can typically be found in reading passages or text. These words are often not critical for the success of the lesson, so little time needs to be spent on teaching Support Vocabulary beyond ensuring that the students understand any meaning in the context of the lesson.

Examples:

starboard, attic, marbled, invested, stocks, calorimeter, galleon, hostler

A vocabulary means both a list of words and the range of words known by any one person. A person's vocabulary develops with age and learning. Vocabulary refers to the words we must know to communicate effectively. In general, vocabulary can be described as oral vocabulary or reading vocabulary. Oral vocabulary refers to words that we use in speaking or recognize in listening. Reading vocabulary refers to words we recognize or use in print.





Types of vocabulary

Researchers often refer to four types of vocabulary

Listening vocabulary-the words we need to know to understand what we hear.

Speaking vocabulary-the words we use when we speak.

Reading vocabulary-the words we need to know to understand what we read.

Writing vocabulary-the words we use in writing.

Indirect vocabulary learning

Students learn vocabulary indirectly when they hear and see words used in many different contexts-for example, through conversations with adults, through being read to, and through reading extensively on their own.

Direct vocabulary learning

Students learn vocabulary directly when they are explicitly taught both individual words and word-learning strategies. Direct vocabulary instruction aids reading comprehension.

Technology and media can play an important role in developing students' vocabulary through generative, multimodal expression. Giving students experience with the digital technologies required in the 21st century will be motivational as well as academically beneficial.

Layers of words

There are three layers

Third Layer

This layer forms an unfamiliar word

Second Layer

This layer forms a Familiar word but meaning uncertain

First Layer

This layer forms a Familiar word and meaning certain

Ways to Improve Vocabulary

- Read Voraciously
- Make friends with dictionary
- Daily a word
- Deposit a word daily in your own word bank
- Find similar words for known
- Personal lexicon
- Engage in conversations





- Read newspaper
- Watch English news

Useful websites for learning word power

- Visuwords.com
- www.thinkmap.com
- Graphwords.com
- www.visualthesaurus.com
- www.leipedia.com
- Wordsift.org
- www.babbel.com

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