



TECHNIQUES FOR IMPROVING A2 LEVEL EFL LEARNERS' VOCABULARY

Sobirova Khabiba Nodirbek kizi

Uzbekistan State World Languages University, sophomore student

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ABSTRACT

This article explores innovative techniques for enhancing A2 level students' vocabulary in learning English as a foreign language, focusing on contextual learning, thematic organization, spaced repetition, active usage, and multimedia tools. Research findings highlight the importance of structured and interactive learning approaches in enhancing word retention and practical application. The study emphasizes that a balanced combination of these methods leads to more effective vocabulary development, particularly when learners engage in consistent practice and real life usage.

Introduction

It is essential to build the foundation for successful language acquisition while learning vocabulary of English as a foreign language. According to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), language learners are constructing their basic abilities at the A2 levels, which correspond to the early phases of language competency. Vocabulary skills are critical to each student's academic achievement. In and out of the classroom, student success depends on grasping reading comprehension and English language development. In a nutshell, vocabulary is important because it is the basis of all language. It is the raw building blocks that we can use to express our thoughts and ideas, share information, understand others and grow personal relationships. As British linguists David A. Wilkins eloquently put it, "without grammar, very little can be conveyed; without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed." Even though there are some challenges of improving vocabulary, there are some techniques that can help to increase your vocabulary competence.

Contextual Learning

One of the most effective ways to enhance vocabulary is through contextual learning, where students learn words in meaningful situations rather than in isolation. According to Nation (2001), "Words should not be learned as isolated units, but rather in the context of sentences, texts, and real-life usage." When students see words in sentences, they can grasp their meanings more effectively. Reading books, articles, and newspapers provides exposure to new vocabulary in authentic contexts. Watching movies and TV shows with subtitles allows learners to observe word usage in spoken English. Engaging in real-life conversations ensures that new words are actively used. Contextual learning also enhances long-term retention, as

words become connected to experiences. Teachers can encourage students to write short stories using newly learned words. Practicing contextual learning reduces the chances of misunderstanding word meanings. Overall, learning words in context is a natural and efficient way to expand vocabulary.

Thematic Vocabulary Learning

Grouping words by themes helps students create mental associations, making vocabulary acquisition more structured. Schmitt (2010) emphasizes, "Learning words in semantically related sets enhances retention and recall." When students learn words related to a specific topic, they develop stronger mental connections. Thematic learning helps learners focus on practical vocabulary needed for daily communication. Creating word maps allows students to visualize the relationship between words. Using flashcards sorted by topics improves memorization and retrieval. Writing short essays or dialogues on a specific theme reinforces understanding. Teachers can introduce new themes weekly to ensure continuous learning. Role-playing activities based on different themes make vocabulary learning interactive. Thematic vocabulary learning is effective because it mirrors real-world language usage. Implementing this strategy in classrooms can significantly improve students' vocabulary acquisition.

Spaced Repetition System

The spaced repetition system is a scientifically proven technique that involves reviewing words at increasing intervals to transfer them into long-term memory. Ebbinghaus (1885) introduced the concept of the "forgetting curve," which SRS involves revisiting words at increasing intervals to strengthen memory. Studies show that reviewing words at the right time prevents forgetting. Apps like Anki, Quizlet, and Memrise use SRS algorithms to optimize learning schedules. Instead of cramming all words at once, students learn progressively over time. Teachers can design vocabulary review schedules based on the SRS method. Writing newly learned words in different sentences reinforces retention. Playing vocabulary games that integrate SRS principles can make learning enjoyable. Regularly reviewing words using SRS significantly boosts long-term memory. By implementing spaced repetition, learners can retain vocabulary more effectively. Explains how information is forgotten over time unless reviewed systematically.

Active Usage of New Words

Merely recognizing words is not enough; learners must actively use them in writing and speaking. According to Thornbury (2002), "Words are best learned when they are used in meaningful communication rather than passive memorization." Speaking and writing regularly help learners internalize new vocabulary. Keeping a daily vocabulary journal allows students to create personalized sentences. Engaging in peer discussions and group conversations helps reinforce word usage. Participating in classroom debates encourages students to apply new words in real-time. Writing short stories or essays with recently learned words aids retention. Playing word-based games like Scrabble and crossword puzzles makes learning interactive. Recording oneself speaking in English provides self-assessment opportunities. Using new words in text messages, emails, or social media posts helps solidify learning. Teachers can assign storytelling exercises where students incorporate new vocabulary. Actively engaging with new words accelerates vocabulary development and fluency.

Discussion

These findings suggest that a varied and interactive approach is the most effective way to improve vocabulary acquisition. Contextual learning ensures that students understand how words function in real-life situations, making them easier to use correctly. However, abstract words or technical terms may still require additional explanations and practice (Nation, 2001). Thematic learning provides structure to vocabulary acquisition, but beginners may find it confusing if too many similar words are introduced at once (Schmitt, 2010). The benefits of spaced repetition are well-documented, but its success depends on consistency. Learners who stick to a regular review schedule see significant improvements in retention, while those who do not may struggle to remember words over time (Ebbinghaus, 1885). Active usage of vocabulary remains one of the best ways to internalize new words, as passive learning often leads to poor retention (Thornbury, 2002). Finally, multimedia and digital tools make vocabulary learning more engaging and accessible, particularly for students who prefer visual or auditory learning styles (McCarthy, 1990).

As a conclusion, we can write that expanding vocabulary requires a combination of structured learning, active engagement, and consistent practice. Learning words in context helps students understand their meanings naturally, while thematic grouping makes recall easier. Regular revision through spaced repetition strengthens long-term memory, but its success depends on consistency. Simply memorizing words is not enough using them in conversations, writing, and real-life situations is what truly reinforces learning. Digital tools and multimedia resources make vocabulary practice more interactive and engaging, helping students stay motivated. However, no single method works for everyone; the best results come from a balanced approach that integrates multiple techniques. Ultimately, the key to vocabulary growth lies in meaningful exposure, active usage, and continuous reinforcement.

The list of used literature:

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