

TEACHING VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT USING A VARIETY OF TEACHING TECHNIQUES

Kadirova Dilfuza Alisherovna

English teacher, Kokand State Pedagogical Institute, Uzbekistan

Niginabonu Arabboyeva Maxmudjon qizi

Student, Kokand State Pedagogical Institute, Uzbekistan

Abstract: *Effective vocabulary instruction plays a crucial role in language acquisition. To ensure students develop a deep understanding of words and are able to use them appropriately, it is essential to teach vocabulary in context. This article outlines the benefits of teaching vocabulary in context and provides a range of effective teaching techniques that can be employed to enhance vocabulary acquisition.*

Keywords: *vocabulary, context, comprehension, learn, words, students, help, concept, meaning, communication, connection.*

INTRODUCTION

*"The word "vocabulary" has its origins in the Latin language. It is derived from the Latin word "vocabularium," which refers to a list of words. Over time, the term evolved and was adopted into Middle English as "vocabularie," eventually becoming the modern English word "vocabulary"."*¹

In its current usage, "vocabulary" encompasses the set of words known and used by an individual or specific to a particular field or language. A rich and varied vocabulary is crucial for effective communication and language comprehension, enabling individuals to express themselves with accuracy and nuance. Developing a robust vocabulary involves continuous learning, understanding, and application of new words in diverse contexts.

By teaching vocabulary within meaningful contexts, students develop a deeper understanding of word meanings and usage. The benefits of teaching vocabulary in context include meaningful connections, enhanced comprehension, and exposure to authentic language use.

IMPORTANCE OF TEACHING VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

1. Meaningful Connections: Teaching vocabulary in context helps students make meaningful connections between words and their usage. By presenting words in relevant contexts, students can better understand their meanings, nuances, and appropriate usage. This approach promotes a deeper understanding of vocabulary and facilitates its retention.

2. Enhanced Comprehension: When vocabulary is taught within the context of a text or a topic, students can better comprehend the overall message or content. Understanding how words are used in specific contexts helps students grasp the

underlying concepts and ideas, leading to improved reading comprehension and overall language proficiency.

3. *Authentic Language Use:* Teaching vocabulary in context exposes students to authentic language use. It helps students understand how words are used naturally in real-life situations, including idiomatic expressions, collocations, and phrasal verbs. This exposure aids in developing students' language skills and their ability to communicate effectively in various contexts.

Effective Teaching Techniques for Vocabulary in Context. 1. Reading and Listening Activities: Incorporate authentic texts, such as stories, articles, or audio recordings, that contain the target vocabulary within a meaningful context. Encourage students to read or listen to the texts and identify the meaning of unfamiliar words based on the context. Discuss the context and engage in activities that promote deeper understanding, such as summarizing, inferencing, and discussing the vocabulary in small groups or as a class.

2. *Word Maps and Graphic Organizers:* Use word maps or graphic organizers to visually represent the relationships between words and their associated concepts. Students can create concept maps, semantic webs, or word clusters to explore the connections between words, their meanings, synonyms, antonyms, and related vocabulary. This technique helps students visualize the relationships and deepen their understanding of how words are used in different contexts.

3. *Contextualized Examples and Sentence Construction:* Provide students with multiple examples of how the target vocabulary is used in sentences and encourage them to construct their own sentences. This allows students to practice using the vocabulary in context and reinforces their understanding of word meanings and usage. Engage in activities such as sentence completion exercises, creating dialogues, or writing short stories using the target vocabulary.

4. *Visual Aids and Realia:* Utilize visual aids, such as pictures, objects, or real-life artifacts, to present vocabulary in context. These visual aids help students make connections between words and their visual representations, reinforcing their understanding and retention. For example, when teaching animal vocabulary, show pictures or use stuffed animals to create a visual context for the words being taught.

5. *Contextualized Games and Activities:* Incorporate interactive games and activities that immerse students in meaningful language contexts. For instance, word association games, vocabulary charades, or role-playing activities provide opportunities for students to practice using the target vocabulary in authentic situations. These engaging activities make vocabulary learning enjoyable and memorable.

6. *Multimedia Resources:* Utilize multimedia resources, such as videos, songs, or podcasts, to expose students to vocabulary in context. Select authentic materials that showcase the target vocabulary being used naturally. After watching or listening, engage students in discussions, comprehension exercises, or creative tasks that encourage them to use and reflect on the vocabulary in the given context.

Conclusion. Teaching vocabulary in context is a powerful approach that enhances students' understanding and usage of words. By providing meaningful connections and authentic language use, this approach facilitates vocabulary acquisition and promotes overall language proficiency. Incorporating a variety of teaching techniques, such as reading and listening activities, word maps, contextualized examples, visual aids, interactive games, and multimedia resources, ensures that students engage with vocabulary in dynamic and meaningful ways. By employing these strategies, educators can create an enriching learning environment that fosters vocabulary development and empowers students to become effective communicators.

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