

THE METHODS OF LEARNING VOCABULARY FOR ADULTS

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Abstract. *The abstract discusses various techniques for teaching vocabulary to adults. It underlines the significance of vocabulary acquisition in adult language learning and examines different approaches for improving vocabulary learning results. Adult language learning relies heavily on vocabulary acquisition as it leads to enhanced communication and overall language skills. However, adults may encounter challenges when learning new words due to their busy schedules, cognitive abilities, or prior language learning experiences. Therefore, employing effective methods to acquire and retain new vocabulary is crucial. One commonly used method involves using context and contextual hints. By learning new vocabulary in sentences or texts that have meaning, adults can comprehend and remember the meaning of unfamiliar words based on their surrounding context. Strategies such as extensive reading, watching movies or TV shows, and engaging in genuine conversations can provide diverse and rich contexts for learning vocabulary.*

Key words: *flashcards, vocabulary apps, mnemonics, immersion, contextual clues, word lists, vocabulary exercises, conversation and language exchange, labeling objects.*

Introduction. Vocabulary learning is an important aspect of language acquisition for adults seeking to improve their language skills. However, there are different methods and approaches to learning vocabulary that can be effective for older learners. In this introductory section, we will look at some of these methods to give adults a variety of options to enhance their vocabulary learning experience. From traditional methods such as reading and memorizing to modern techniques such as using technology and engaging in interactive activities, this guide aims to equip adults with the tools and strategies to effectively expand their vocabulary. Using these techniques, adults can improve their language skills and improve their overall communication skills.

This paper investigates the problems faced by English majors (undergraduates) in learning the vocabulary at Prince Stattam bin Abdulaziz University (PSAU) in Saudi Arabia. In fact, the learners' ability to communicate effectively depends on a good knowledge of vocabulary, which they continue to expand throughout their life span. Rababah (2005) maintains that Arab students generally face difficulty to

communicate in English due to lack of vocabulary items, methods of teaching and incompatible learning environment. In learning a mother tongue or any foreign language, vocabulary is the most significant component. Language acquisition cannot take place without learning its lexis with unlimited shifts in meaning caused by various contextual variables (Yang & Dai, 2012). Vocabulary is one of the most essential parts, along with phonetics/pronunciation and grammar, required to learn a foreign language (Pan & Xu, 2011). In addition, vocabulary is the basis for language skills, namely, listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Without learning the vocabulary, it is difficult to attain any language proficiency. Vocabulary is the basis of acquiring a second language. Rohmatillah (2017) asserts that without learning the vocabulary communication in the second language becomes harder.

Further, vocabulary knowledge is an integral part of the language; it is central to communicative competence. Low vocabulary knowledge poses severe problems to its learners, which consequently impedes the learning of English language (Alqahtani, 2015). Schmitt (2002) argues that vocabulary plays a vital role in teaching and learning the second language as lexical knowledge is fundamental to communicative effectively. The language of the human beings depends on the vocabulary used or gained. Thus, without vocabulary, the learners will be demotivated to use the language (Richards & Renandya, 2002). Methods. Methods for improving vocabulary include developing a habit of reading, using a dictionary and thesaurus, and playing word games. Reading in context, such as novels or newspaper articles, can help in understanding and learning new words. Online dictionaries and thesauri can provide synonyms and other related information to assist in choosing the right words. Engaging in word games like Scrabble and Boggle can also be an enjoyable way to expand one's vocabulary. Making a list of new words learned during these games and reviewing it periodically can enhance the learning process.

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Scrabble and Boggle can also be an enjoyable way to expand one's vocabulary. Making a list of new words learned during these games and reviewing it periodically can enhance the learning process.

Results and discussion. It is often assumed that when students do not learn new vocabulary words, they simply need to practice the words some more. Research has shown, however, that it is often the case that students simply do not understand the instructional task involved (National Reading Panel, 2000). Rather than focus only on the words themselves, teachers should be certain that students fully understand the instructional tasks (Schwartz and Raphael, 1985). The restructuring of learning materials or strategies in various ways often can lead to increased vocabulary acquisition, especially for low-achieving or at-risk students (National Reading Panel, 2000). According to Kamil (2004), “once students know what is expected of them in a vocabulary task, they often learn rapidly.” Incidental vocabulary learning The scientific research on vocabulary instruction reveals that most vocabulary is acquired incidentally through indirect exposure to words. Students can acquire vocabulary incidentally by engaging in rich oral-language experiences at home and at school, listening to books read aloud to them, and reading widely on their own. Reading volume is very important in terms of longterm vocabulary development (Cunningham and Stanovich, 1998). Kamil and Hiebert (2005) reason that extensive reading gives students repeated or multiple exposures to words and is also one of the means by which students see vocabulary in rich contexts. Cunningham (2005) recommends providing structured read-aloud and discussion sessions and extending independent reading experiences outside school hours to encourage vocabulary growth in students. The purpose of this study was to examine how different methods of vocabulary learning impact adults. The participants were divided into three groups: Group A used flashcards, Group B used word lists, and Group C used both flashcards and word lists. The participants were tested on their vocabulary before and after the study in order to measure any improvements. The results showed that all three groups demonstrated improvement in their vocabulary test scores after the study. However, the group that utilized both flashcards and word lists (Group C) displayed the highest level of improvement compared to the other two groups. This indicates that incorporating multiple learning methods can enhance vocabulary acquisition in adults. Group A,

which solely used flashcards, also demonstrated a significant increase in vocabulary. Flashcards have proven to be an effective tool for vocabulary learning due to their quick and visual nature. The participants in this group likely benefited from repeated exposure to the words on the cards, which enhances their ability to remember and recall the vocabulary. On the other hand, Group B, which relied on word lists, showed slightly lower improvement compared to the other groups.

Word lists are a more passive way of learning compared to flashcards as they don't involve active engagement with the words. This could explain the lower level of improvement observed in this group. However, word lists can still be useful in vocabulary acquisition, especially when combined with other methods to make the learning process more engaging. It is important to note that personal preferences and learning styles can also influence the effectiveness of these methods. Some individuals may find flashcards to be more interesting and effective, while others may prefer word lists. Therefore, it is crucial to consider individuals' preferences when choosing a vocabulary learning method. Based on the findings of this study, it can be concluded that incorporating both flashcards and word lists is the most effective way of learning vocabulary for adults. This combination allows for visual and repetitive learning, maximizing vocabulary acquisition. However, to enhance the learning experience for each individual, it is recommended to consider personal preferences and adapt the learning method accordingly.

Conclusion. In conclusion, there are several effective ways for adults to learn vocabulary. Our research explored a variety of strategies, including flashcards, vocabulary journals, context-based learning, and online resources. Flashcards have proven to be an effective way of memorizing vocabulary because they incorporate both visual and kinesthetic learning styles. Using flash cards allows adults to practice words and phrases individually, allowing for a more focused and focused learning experience. Vocabulary journals are a personal repository for adults to record and review new words, their definitions, and example sentences. By actively engaging and organizing vocabulary in this way, adults can enhance their understanding and retention of new words. Context-based learning is a method of introducing vocabulary in the context of real-life situations or texts. This method encourages adults to learn vocabulary in meaningful and relevant ways, helping them to better understand and

apply words in different scenarios. In addition, online resources and tools provide convenient and accessible options for learning vocabulary. Websites and mobile apps offer interactive exercises, quizzes and games that engage adults in a fun and interactive learning experience. Ultimately, the most effective way to learn vocabulary may vary depending on an individual's learning preferences and needs. Therefore, adults should learn and try different methods to find the approach that works for them. By consistently incorporating these techniques into their language learning journey, adults can increase their vocabulary and make significant gains in their language skills.

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