

# Teaching Vocabulary in Second Languages with Playing Games

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**Abstract:** *This article describes how to increase the efficiency of teaching vocabulary with different types of intriguing games . At first, the article shows a few issues which foreign language learners may come across while learning a foreign language. It also gives some recommendations to overcome these issues for students.*

**Keywords:** vocabulary, new words, games, memory , pronunciation,synonyms, multiple meanings of words

## INTRODUCTION

Most language learners regard learning vocabulary as a dilemmatic problem. But it is admittedly impossible to take ignorance of solving this issue for them. Jack C. Richards and Willy A. Renandya say : " Vocabulary is a core component of language proficiency and provides much of the basis for how well learners speak, listen, read and write". According to this fact, Vocabulary is a crucial component of language learning. However, sometimes some of teachers encourage their students to ignore new words to get high results. Actually they mean that students should miss a few of them which can not influence on context meaning. Because they know that spending limited time on it is worthless . That's why, firstly vocabulary acquisition is absolutely imperative to learn a foreign language. In this article, teaching vocabulary by playing different types of amazing games is described briefly.

## Main body

Some students think that keeping new words in mind is the most difficult process. But it doesn't mean that they can't overcome this issue. The best way of learning unknown words by heart is embodying the meanings of those words. For this , teachers must utilize various games to motivate students to acquire vocabulary intriguingly. A. Kadir Çakır says : " Games ought to be at the heart of teaching foreign languages. Even if games resulted only in noise and entertained students, they are still worth paying attention to and implementing in the classroom since they motivate learners, promote communicative competence and generate fluency ".

According to above mentioned statement, games are the most effective ways of acquiring and revising new words. First of all , using pantomime is a brainstorming activity to revise learned words. In this case students in the classroom should be divided into two groups, then teachers should ask one student for miming . When that student mimes to explain the rest of others should try to guess what he/she means . It is the best way to increase memory of foreign language learners.

There is another game among language teaching games . It is drawing a picture of the meaning of a word. It can aid to keep that word in mind significantly. Because while foreign language learners draw they embody that description in their minds. For example, they draw a tree they remind nearly all words related to it like leaf , root and so on . It is not only a helpful but also a funny activity for foreign language learners.

Sometimes most students face up to problems related to pronunciation in learning new words. Shara Astatia stated that spelling results from errors in pronunciation or in spelling and contributes to a word's difficulty. It is clear from the statement that this issue brings about another one . But it is not stressful for foreign language learners. On account that there is a solution the two problems here . This is a game that requires students to complete gaps in a text of an amazing song . It can help to increase pronunciation ability of new words of students and avoid spelling mistakes. It is a funny activity to interact all students in the classroom . By these kinds of games interests in learning a foreign language of students go up considerably.

Although some students acquire a lot of new words , they don't employ these in proper places . Because they have lack of realising the proper meanings of words . As usual, these mistakes have in common with synonyms. It is admitted that distinguishing differences between synonyms is considerably intricate for second language learners. In this case, they gain more knowledge on vocabulary use in second languages . These kinds of books also have practice activities to increase memory.

Shara Astatia says: "When two words overlap in meaning, learners are likely to confuse them . Or it called word with multiple meaning such as since and still can also be difficulties ". We know that some words have different meaning . For this reason , some students maybe under high depression to learn these kinds of words by heart. Of course, it is impossible to keep all meanings of all unknown words in mind. But it is advisable to learn only commonly encountered meanings of them.

Havingan enough vocabulary baseis a main issue of foreign language learners. Because it is a huge impossibility to learn a second language for foreign language learners without riched vocabulary base . Dr Ibrahim Mohammed Alfaki wrote about Laufer's following statement in one of his articles:

"high frequency words of the language are clearly so important that conservable time should be spent on them by teachers and learners " .

According to this statement, it is a convenient way to learn high frequency words by heart . On the grounds that knowing 4 000 - 6000 words which are frequent is a great oppourtunity to understand general meaning of a text . That's why , foreign language learners must learn frequent words .

### **Conclusion acknowledgements**

In conclusion, vocabulary acquisition is a crucial aspect of language teaching . However, it demands for a lot of effort to acquire for foreign language learners. In addition to this, they may have a lot of problems during learning process such as low memory, pronunciation, meaning, several meanings of a word and lack of enough vocabulary base . But if students are absolutely eager to learn a foreign language, they can overcome any problem by following above mentioned recommendations.

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