

UNIT IV: BUILDING UP VOCABULARIES



INTRODUCTION

Language learning is essential to all individuals specially when communicating human thoughts, feelings, and experiences, establishing relationships with others, and striving to make sense and order of the world.

One vital factor to improve all areas of communication – listening, speaking, reading, and specially writing, is the development of vast, robust and wide range of vocabulary. In this unit, you shall learn about vocabulary and how you can develop it in writing.



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of the lesson, you are expected to:

- Understand the meaning of vocabulary;
- Master the concept of diction;
- Understand the different types of diction;
- Understand the principles of diction;
- Understand various effective ways of using words;
- Differentiate connotation from denotation, and
- Use connotation and denotation in explaining the meaning of words.



ACTIVATING PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

ACTIVITY 1: Recall

Directions: Have you really considered just how many skills you actually apply when you write a composition, an essay, or even a piece of literature? Take a moment and write down on the table below as many actions as possible that can be associated with writing.

Actions and subskills associated with Writing			
Actions		Subskills	



PRESENTATION OF CONTENT

TOPIC 1: VOCABULARY DEFINED

A **vocabulary** is a set of familiar words within a person's language. It is usually developed with age, and it 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 plays a fundamental role in comprehension. Since this is widely used in all five language macroskills (reading, writing, listening, speaking, and viewing), a reader, a writer, a speaker, a viewer, and even a listener cannot understand or create a message or a text without knowing the meaning of the words they are using.

Vocabulary is an important focus of language learning and refers to the knowledge of words, including their structure (morphology), use (grammar), meanings (semantics), and links to other words (word/semantic relationships).

TOPIC 2: DICTION

In writing, diction is the strategic choice of words based on the audience, context, or situation. It can also express additional meanings or particular styles. The words you would choose in an email to your teacher or work colleague are different from the words you'd choose when speaking to a close friend or a relative. The difference lies on diction.

What is Diction in Writing?

Diction is the careful selection of words to communicate a message or establish a particular voice or writing style. For example, flowy, figurative language creates colorful prose, while a more formal vocabulary with concise and direct language can help drive home a point.

What is the purpose of diction in writing?

Writers pick explicit words and expressions relying upon the result they're attempting to accomplish. The motivation behind a bit of composing decides its expression. In writing, authors regularly utilize casual linguistic authority and interesting expressions or words utilized for non-exacting implications, similar to comparisons and analogies. Hence, diction comes in through the words usage if it is specialized, succinct, and formal, composed for a particular audience.

Different Types of Diction in Writing

Different styles of diction impact how different ideas are expressed.

1. Formal diction.

Formal diction uses grammatical rules and uses proper syntax or the formation of sentences. It is considered as a professional choice of words which can be found in legal documents like business correspondences and academic articles.

2. Informal diction.

Informal diction is more conversational and often used in narrative literature. This casual vernacular is representative of how people communicate in real life, which gives an author freedom to depict more realistic characters. Most of the short stories and novels use informal diction to make it easier to understand by anyone especially if the target audience is anyone.

3. Colloquial diction.

These are expressions which are connected to informal. It is generally representing a particular region or place or era or period. Contractions in American English such as “ain’t” instead of isn’t is an example of colloquial expressions, the use of colloquialisms make the writing more realistic.

4. Slang diction.

Slang is very informal language or specific words used by a particular group of people. You'll usually hear slang spoken more often than you'll see it put in writing, though emails and texts often contain many conversational slang words.

5. Poetic diction.

Poetic diction is driven by melodious words that identify with a particular subject reflected in a sonnet, and make a musical, or agreeable, sound. It generally includes the utilization of elucidating language, in some cases set to a beat or rhyme.

Six Principles in Diction

1. Use clear and concise sentences, usually about 18 words long.
2. Avoid redundancies, cliches wordiness, and highfalutin. Although may be used, avoid overusing “There” and “It”, drop it
3. Use precise vocabulary. Be accurate. Condensed.
4. Be consistent in pronoun POV
5. Avoid sexist language.
6. Use appropriate level of formality.

INAAPPROPRIATE DICTION	CORRECTION
1. Use clear and concise sentences, usually about 18 words long.	
Image is a very important factor in politics because once the reputation of a person is smeared by accusations, the people's	Image is an important factor in politics. Once the reputation of a person is smeared by accusations, the people's perception of the

perception of the person is forever tainted and it may cause him to lose credibility and trust even when the truth behind allegations is not yet verified.	person is forever tainted. The person may lose his credibility and trust, even when the allegations are not yet verified.
Bullying is something that can be prevented by the students and this has to be handled by parents and school staff. Parents and teachers can help children understand what bullying is and explain to the children that bullying is bad while the teachers too should get involved directly and educate children on the harmful effects that might bullying can cause to someone.	<i>TRY MAKING THIS CONCISE AND CLEAR!</i>
2. Avoid redundancies, cliches wordiness, and highfalutin	
Although offsprings are taught not obtain free gifts from strangers, at the present moment many still do.	Although children are told not to take gifts from strangers, many still do.
There's a book on the table.	A book is on the table.
There's a coffee shop next to the station.	<i>TRY FIXING THIS SENTENCES!</i>
It seems as though we might need some more money.	
Out of the darkness, there rode a knight, mounted on a fine horse.	
Sample of cliché words and phrases:	
is located in is required to it should be noted that look into making a determination (decision) more often than not needs (or has) to not allow not different not include on the basis of owing to the fact that past history payment made to prior to the limitation on small in size (number) subsequent to the use of that limits (or other verb after "that") the creation of (or other "-tion" noun) there are (or there is) whether or not will be able to will depend upon will have to	is in must (or should) OMIT consider determining (deciding) often must (or should) must (or should) prevent (or preclude) similar omit based on (or since) since (or because) history paid to before limits small after using limiting (i.e., the verb's <i>ing</i> form) creating (i.e., the noun's <i>ing</i> form) CONSIDER OMITTING whether can depends on must (or should)
3. Use precise vocabulary. Be accurate.	

Shafts that control the brake during urgent situations are built inside MRT trains to keep the passengers free from harm.	Emergency levers are installed in every MRT train for the safety of the passengers.
There is a requirement that all students have an evaluation of their transcripts for placement purposes or to meet a prerequisite.	The college requires that the admissions office evaluate all student transcripts for placement and prerequisites.
We are endeavoring to construct a more inclusive society.	We're going to make a country in which no one is left out.
4. Be consistent on pronoun POV	
We should simply accept the fate is simply an illusion; you must not leave our decisions something that does not exist.	We should simply accept the fate is simply an illusion; we must not leave our decisions something that does not exist.
They might start out by joking, but calling someone a name with the intent of hurting you is not okay. Be sure your child understands calling someone a name, even if he feel the person deserves it, is not okay and is a form of bullying.	<i>TRY FIXING THIS SENTENCES BY USING A CONSISTENT PRONOUN</i>
5. Avoid sexist Language	
The teacher is the person who organises the class. He is the one who controls timekeeping and the sequence of events.	
Each student makes up his own schedule.	
When a student writes a paper, they must proofread carefully.	
6. Appropriate level of Formality	
Yes, diskette are like thing of the past, but they're still cool today.	Diskette may be updated, but they are still fascinating
If bullying problems occur, be sure to chat your adviser about the problem and seek their assistance immediately in resolving the matter.	<i>TRY MAKING THESE SENTENCES FORMAL</i>
I would like to thank you my boss, Principal Parker, the staff, the people beind this award, and the young fellas of BHS for selecting me for this honor.	

LEVEL OF FORMALITY IN WORDS

	INFORMAL	FORMAL	HIGHLY FORMAL
Time Sequence	first, second, third then next after that also	to begin with afterwards at the same time meanwhile	subsequently previously
Addition	also and	in addition moreover furthermore besides similarly	equally important
Cause/Effect	so for	therefore as a result thus	consequently accordingly hence
Comparison	also too like	as well as both...and neither...nor likewise in like manner	bear resemblance to in common with
Contrast	but or nor	however nevertheless yet on the other hand at the same time though whereas unlike otherwise	conversely on the contrary in opposition to in contrast to
Example		for example for instance	as an illustration
Summary/Conclusion		finally last on the whole	in summary in conclusion

CHOOSING THE CORRECT WORD AFFECTS MEANING

- Choosing the correct word is sometimes interlinked with spelling. For example, it is vital to know which of the following word to choose:
 To, too, two
 You're, you
 Where, were, we're
 Their, there, they're
 Effect, affect
- In a spoken communication, conversational participants can immediately ask for and give clarification. However, in written communication, writers have only but one chance to communicate their message. Hence, they must choose the most appropriate word.

The following sentences show the change in meaning by changing one word:

The man walked across the street.
 The man strolled across the street.
 The man rushed across the street.
 The man dawdled across the street.
 The man stumbled across the street.

Changing the verb gives us more information that changes the meaning subtly but importantly. If this were an eyewitness account of a road accident, the verb chosen would provide critical information that may affect the outcome of the investigation.

- Additionally, the wrong choice of words can change the message intended to the listener or reader. To avoid misinterpretation, use strong and exact verbs, specific color, and appropriate use of adjectives and adverbs. (Aguila, Galan, & Wigley, 2017)

Examples

Without strong and exact verb: Joshua's gift was surprising his mother.

With strong and exact verbs: Joshua's gift surprised his mother.

Without specific color: His red blood flows from the cross of salvation.

With specific color: His scarlet red blood flows from the cross of salvation.

Inappropriate use of adjective/adverb: The police shouted loudly to the snatcher.

Appropriate use of adjective/adverb: The police shouted to the snatcher.

TOPIC 3: EFFECTIVE USE OF WORDS

Six characteristics of word usage:

1. concrete and specific, not vague and abstract
2. concise, not verbose
3. familiar, not obscure
4. precise, not ambiguous
5. constructive, not destructive
6. appropriately formal

1. Concreteness and Specific

Concrete and specific word usage involves tangible qualities/characteristics and things we know through our senses. Specific language designates particular items or individuals cases.

Consider the examples below.

Abstract	Concrete
To excel in college, you'll have to work hard.	To excel in college, you'll need to attend every class; do all your reading before you go; write several drafts of each paper; and review your notes for each class weekly.
General	Specific
The student enjoyed the class.	Rhea enjoyed Mr. Gallardo's 8:00 a.m. EAPP class.

Observe how statements become more effective as the language becomes more concrete and specific. In contrast, abstract and general statements can generate multiple interpretations, and leave many questions unanswered.

2. Conciseness

It involves using the most appropriate terms to get one's point across. Conciseness means using a minimal amount of effective terms to convey one's argument. To make the sentence more succinct, writers must avoid unnecessary words in their sentences.

Verbose/Wordy	Concise
Leah believed but could not verify that James had feelings of affection for her.	Leah assumed that James adored her.
My professor demonstrated some of the ways and methods for cutting words from my essay that I had written for the class.	My professor demonstrated methods for cutting words from my essay.
Ludwig's castles are an astounding marriage of beauty and madness. By his death, he had commissioned three castles.	Ludwig's three castles are an astounding marriage of beauty and madness.

3. Familiarity

It refers to words/ terms that the reader easily recognizes and understands because they use them regularly. The message has a greater effect when using vocabulary that is familiar to the reader.

Unfamiliar	Familiar
After our perusal of pertinent data, the conclusion is that a lucrative market exists for the subject property.	The data we studied show that your property is profitable and in high demand.

The use of unfamiliar words or highfalutin words can eliminate the essence of the message like in both examples below:

A letter sent to senior high school students warning them of the risks of an unhealthy diet:

Individuals who maintain a diet of high-fat content are exposed to an increased risk of developing atherosclerosis, which is a buildup of fat deposits on the inner walls of the arteries. This condition can reduce or cut off the flow of blood in the arteries serving the major organs of the body. This can lead to poor health.

An assignment given to a class of ABM students by their philosophy teacher:

The presently assigned paper necessitates an eloquently articulated analysis of the Existentialist perspective as it pertains to contemporary living. You should adumbrate the points which represent the sine qua non of your analysis.¶

4. Preciseness

Through the use of precise word usage, vocabulary of specific nouns, and vivid verbs, you can construct clear mental images and avoid wordiness. Moreover, the use of concise language,

using the fewest possible words without sacrificing meaning, makes your writing more understandable.

Precise writing replaces vague terms for accurate nouns and active verbs.

Examples:

Imprecise	Precise
Entrepreneurs use professional writing skills to communicate with others.	Entrepreneurs use professional writing skills to communicate effectively with clients and business partners.
Research is taught early in the academic world.	Research is taught to first-year university students.

5. Constructive Word Usage

The use of constructive language expresses a potentially negative in a positive way, while destructive language leads the reader to blame and criticism, causing defensiveness.

Destructive	Constructive
The problem is..	The challenge is..
What you do not understand is ..	Let me explain in a different way.
It is not my problem.	How can I help?

6. Formality of Language

The formality of the language used should conform to the formality of the situation and the relationship between the writer and the reader. Consider the following examples.

Very Formal	Formal	Informal
Exceedingly large segments of the population are expressing their discontent with medical practitioners who appear to more engrossed in amassing financial assets than in providing efficacious care to people with health disorders.	A large number of consumers are complaining about medical doctors who are apparently more interested in making money than in providing effective health care.	A lot of people are unhappy with their doctors who only seem to care about how much money they make, and not giving their patients good care.

TOPIC 4: USING CONNOTATION AND DENOTATION

Another way of improving of understanding the different meanings that particular words can have is through connotation and denotation. Words only make sense to us if we understand what they mean. Two ways of describing the meaning of a word are called denotation and connotation.

Denotation is the basic, precise, literal meaning of the word that can be found in a dictionary. **Connotation**, meanwhile, is the positive, negative or neutral feelings, attitudes, ideas, or associations with a word. These shades of meaning are affected by social overtones, emotional meanings, or cultural implications.

For example, the color "red" has many connotations: it can represent a joyous occasion because it is very festive, or it can represent anger (as in the idiom "seeing red") or being called a member of the "reds" has historical associations with leftist organizations.

To illustrate the difference between denotation and connotation, compare the following meanings of the words "father" and "daddy":

Father

Denotation: a male parent.

Connotation: -association: positive
-feelings: love and respect

Daddy

Denotation: a male parent.

Connotation: -association: positive
-feelings: love, familiarity, childhood

The denotations of "father" and "daddy" are synonymous because they both pertain to a male parent. However, denotations do not reveal the individual responses of people to a word. "Daddy" is more connotative than "father," even though they denote the same thing because many children have fond memories of their fathers. Of course, this does not discount that each reader has a different relationship with his or her father. Two words may have the same definition but can have different emotional content.



APPLICATION

ACTIVITY 2: DENOTATION OR CONNOTATION

Directions: Write a sentence for each word in the series that follows. Employ your knowledge on connotative and denotative meaning of words. Make sure your answers reinforce each word's connotations.

1. Stroll, trudge, loiter

2. Tour, pilgrimage, vacation

3. Enemy, antagonist, opponent

4. Crown, throne, ring

5. Blood, war, kingdom

ACTIVITY 3

Directions: Read the following article found in the given link. Next, choose ten words that are unfamiliar to you and underline them. Afterwards, write the approximate meaning of your selected words using the table below. Fill out this table after reading the article. Suggested article: "Shouldn't There Be a Word...?" Then, answer the questions that follow.

Author: Barbara Wallraff
Link: <https://theamericanscholar.org/shouldnt-there-be-a-word/>

Unfamiliar words	Your own definition based on your understanding	Definition from the dictionary	The connotation of the word

1. How accurate is your definition compared to the definition found in the dictionary?

2. How did you arrive with your own definition of the word?

3. How does the connotation of the word affect your understanding of its meaning? State an example.

ACTIVITY 4: ANAGRAM

Directions: An anagram is a word or phrase made by rearranging the letters in another word or phrase. See how many anagrams you can make for each of the words below. (The first one is done for you.) Each word has at least two anagrams. Remember that some letters often go

together, such as st or ea. Also, some letters can make more than one sound, for example the c in cat and face.

1. east

seat

eats

teas

sate

2. taps

3.

4. pools

5. tales

6. shape

7. snap

8. plate

9. times

ACTIVITY 5

Directions: Create a paragraph about Fiesta in the Philippines. Choose only one type of diction in writing. Write your paragraph on the space provided.

[illegible]

ACTIVITY 6

Directions: Answer the following questions.

1. In what references or reading materials do you see formal Diction?

2. What about the informal?

3. How about in colloquial and slang?

4. What do you think is the proper diction in academic writing? Will there be an impact to writing?

ACTIVITY 7

Directions: Choose any game you are playing with and tell your experiences while playing the game. Use proper diction in writing by using strong and exact verbs, adjectives and adverbs appropriately.

Example 1: Mobile Legends



<https://m.mobilelegends.com>

Example 2: Candy Crush Saga



<https://www.facebook.com/candycrushsaga/>



REFLECTION

Directions: In one paragraph, share the topics and concepts that you have learned in this unit. Relate it to the importance of enhancing your writing skills.
