

# A survey on vocabulary learning strategies

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Vocabulary Learning: Theories, Strategies, and Best Practices\*\*

#### **Defining Vocabulary**

Authors define vocabulary as a collection of words and phrases that an individual knows and uses within a language. It encompasses both receptive (understanding) and productive (using) aspects of language.

#### **Schmitt's Theory of Vocabulary Learning Strategies**

According to Schmitt's theory, vocabulary learning strategies can be classified into three categories:

- **Cognitive Strategies:** Strategies that focus on the mental processing and understanding of new words.
- **Metacognitive Strategies:** Strategies that involve self-awareness and planning for vocabulary learning.
- **Memory Strategies:** Strategies that facilitate the retention and recall of new words.

#### **Vocabulary Learning Strategies**

Effective vocabulary learning involves the use of a variety of strategies, including:

- **Contextualization:** Learning words in their natural context within sentences or passages.

- **Repetition and Review:** Regularly exposing oneself to new words to reinforce learning.
- **Spaced Retrieval:** Gradually increasing the interval between exposures to improve long-term retention.
- **Active Recall:** Trying to retrieve words from memory without looking at them.
- **Self-Testing:** Checking comprehension and identifying areas for improvement.

## Acquisition of New Vocabulary

Acquiring new vocabulary involves a gradual process of:

- **Exposure:** Encountering new words through reading, listening, or conversation.
- **Comprehension:** Understanding the meaning and usage of the words in context.
- **Intensification:** Deliberately focusing on and studying the new words.
- **Retrieval:** Accessing the words from memory for active use in communication.

## Types of Vocabulary Learning

Vocabulary learning can be categorized into different types based on the purpose or context:

- **General Vocabulary:** Words that are commonly used in everyday communication.
- **Academic Vocabulary:** Words that are specific to academic or technical fields.
- **Idioms and Phrases:** Combinations of words that have specific meanings not easily derived from their individual components.

## Best Way to Learn Vocabulary

The optimal way of learning vocabulary varies depending on individual learning styles and preferences. However, research suggests that a combination of strategies, such as regular exposure, active recall, and spaced retrieval, can be highly effective.

## Effective Vocabulary Instruction

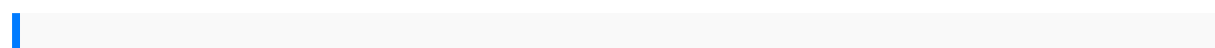
Effective vocabulary teaching strategies include:

- **Explicit Instruction:** Directly teaching new words, their meanings, and usage.
- **Contextualized Learning:** Presenting words in meaningful contexts to aid comprehension.
- **Differentiated Instruction:** Tailoring instruction to meet the needs of individual learners.
- **Technology Integration:** Using digital resources and tools to support vocabulary learning.

## Vocabulary Learning Strategies Used by EFL Learners

EFL (English as a Foreign Language) learners often employ various strategies to enhance their vocabulary, such as:

- **Translation:** Using their native language to understand and translate new words.
- **Flashcards:** Creating and using flashcards to practice vocabulary recall.
- **Word Frequency Analysis:** Focusing on learning the most frequently used words in the target language.
- **Conceptual Mapping:** Creating visual representations to connect vocabulary with related concepts.



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