

5 a lexical chunk based study of business english

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What is a Lexical Chunk?**

A lexical chunk is a sequence of words or phrases that occur together frequently and are treated as a single unit. It is a building block for language production, allowing speakers to express complex ideas more fluently.

Examples of Lexical Chunks

- "kick the bucket" (die)
- "make a fuss" (complain)
- "break a leg" (good luck)

Chunks in the Lexical Approach

The lexical approach to language learning emphasizes the importance of acquiring lexical chunks. It contends that learners can improve fluency and accuracy by storing and retrieving these chunks automatically.

Lexical Chunks and Collocations

A lexical collocation is a pair or group of words that typically occur together. While lexical chunks may include collocations, they are broader and can include other types of word sequences.

Lexical Chunks for Fluency

Acquiring lexical chunks helps learners speak more smoothly and naturally. By using prefabricated phrases, they can avoid hesitation and reduce processing time.

Example of a Chunk Method

In the chunk method, learners are presented with and practice lexical chunks as whole units. This helps them develop automatic recall and improve fluency.

Lexical Examples

- "strong wind"
- "heavy rain"
- "beautiful day"

Why Lexical Chunks are Important

Lexical chunks:

- Improve fluency and accuracy
- Facilitate comprehension
- Support vocabulary acquisition
- Enhance writing skills

Chunking Method in Learning English

Chunking involves breaking down language into smaller, more manageable units. This helps learners process and remember information more effectively.

Example of a Chunk in English

"I went to the park" can be chunked into:

- "I went" (past tense of "go")
- "to the park" (prepositional phrase)

Lexical Content Word

A lexical content word is a word that carries semantic meaning, such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs.

Example of a Lexical Collocation

"heavy traffic"

How to Identify Lexical Words

Words are lexical if they meet the following criteria:

- Have a semantic meaning
- Are not function words (e.g., articles, prepositions)
- Can stand alone as a phrase or sentence

Teaching Lexical Chunks

Lexical chunks can be taught through:

- Explicit instruction
- Contextualized activities
- Pair work and role-playing
- Input-rich environments

Example of a Lexical Skill

Using lexical chunks appropriately in speech and writing

Study of Chunks of Language

Phraseology

Example of Chunking in a Sentence

"The old man sat on the bench, his hands trembling."

Chunk Sample

"his hands trembling"

Chunking in English Literature

Chunking is used in literary analysis to identify recurring patterns and motifs in language.

5 Lexical Words

- Run
- Jump
- Talk
- Listen
- Think

Example of a Lexical Approach

Using authentic texts to teach learners how to identify and use lexical chunks.

Lexical Features in English

- Collocations
- Idioms
- Phrasal verbs

Examples of Lexical Choices

- "happy" vs. "joyful"
- "angry" vs. "furious"
- "run" vs. "jog"

Specific Example of Chunking

"To be or not to be, that is the question."

This sentence can be chunked into:

- "to be"

- "not to be"
- "that is the question"

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