

# Module Eight

# **VOCABULARY**

## General Considerations

## Module 8

# Vocabulary: General Considerations

Welcome to this guide on teaching vocabulary effectively. In this presentation, we will explore strategies to help students learn and remember new words. By following these proven techniques, you can create an engaging and enriching learning experience for your students.



**2 Contributors**

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# Teach High-Coverage Words First

## Relevance

Start with words that are relevant to students' everyday life and the lesson at hand. This ensures they can immediately apply their new vocabulary.

## Progression

Introduce words in a logical progression. Teach more common, general words before more specific ones. For example, teach "bird" before "eagle" and "dog" before "poodle".

## Context

Provide a context for learning new words. Use texts and tasks that require the use of specific vocabulary, reinforcing their understanding and usage.

# Recognition vs Production



1

## Recognition

If your goal is for students to understand new words in context, you can expose them to more vocabulary. However, avoid overwhelming students to prevent demotivation.

2

## Production

If you want students to actively use and produce new words, limit the number taught in a single lesson. Focus on depth of understanding and application rather than quantity.

3

## Maximum Number

As a rule of thumb, try not to teach more than 10 new words in a one-hour lesson. This allows students to truly grasp and internalize the vocabulary.

## Create Clear Board Work

When introducing new words, keep your board work neat and organized. Create a vocabulary column down one side of the board, and don't forget to mark stress, word types, and any relevant grammar information. A clean board helps maintain focus and aids comprehension.

### Vocabulary Column

When introducing new words, use a dedicated column for vocabulary on the board. This keeps the board work organized and easily accessible for students.

### Stress & Grammar Info

Mark the stress of words with 2 or more syllables to help students with pronunciation. Additionally, provide any relevant grammar information, such as part of speech, prepositions or verb forms.

### Personalization

Personalize vocabulary to make it more memorable for students. Relate new words to their own experiences and interests, fostering a stronger connection with the language.

# Recycle and Reinforce



## Frequency

Recycling vocabulary is crucial for long-term retention. Students often need to encounter a word multiple times before it becomes ingrained in their memory.



## Strategies

Use various methods to recycle vocabulary, such as vocabulary boxes or flashcards. Regularly revisit previously taught words, integrating them into future lessons and activities.



## Consolidation

Help students record and organize vocabulary in a way that suits their learning style. Encourage them to create mind maps, lexical sets, word books, or use digital tools for easy reference.

# Promote Learner Independence

- 1 Dictionary Usage**

Encourage students to use dictionaries as a resource for learning. This fosters independence, allowing learners to explore new words and deepen their understanding on their own.
- 2 Collaboration**

Promote peer learning by encouraging students to learn from one another. By sharing their knowledge and discussing new vocabulary, students can enhance their language skills collectively.
- 3 Learner Autonomy**

Empower students to take ownership of their own vocabulary development. Provide guidance and support, but also create opportunities for self-directed learning and exploration.



# The Power of Context

1

## Visual Concept First

Remember that a word gains meaning within a context. Start by presenting the concept visually before revealing the word. This creates a stronger connection and enhances understanding. However, be careful because visuals are not suitable with abstract words.

2

## Elicitation Techniques

Use effective elicitation techniques to engage students when introducing new words. Show pictures, ask questions, and encourage active participation to foster comprehension.

3

## Meaning Check

After presenting a new word, always verify that everyone is on the same page. Use effective Concept Checking Questions (CCQs) to ensure that students have grasped the meaning. Encourage active participation and clarify any doubts along the way.

### Using the clines in teaching vocabulary

A cline is a scale of language items that goes from one extreme to another, for example from positive to negative or from weak to strong.

### Mapping modal verbs

For example, the teacher asks learners to map modal verbs of probability such as 'must', 'might not' and 'may' on a cline of probability from 100 per cent sure to 100 per cent not sure.

### Benefits and limitations

Clines can be a useful tool for learners to record information, and they can help teachers as a concept check. However, a learner's ability to use a cline does not mean that they can use the target language in context.

# Inspire and Motivate



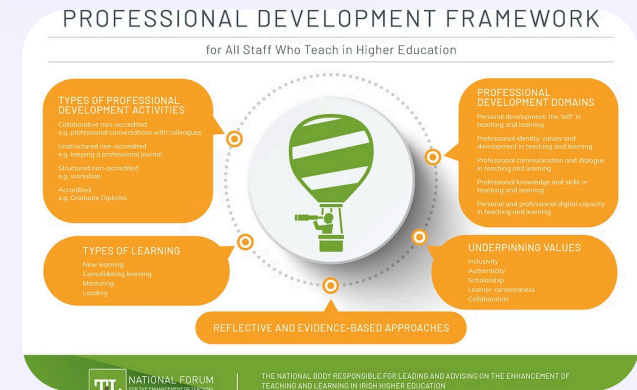
## Motivational Techniques

Create a positive and inspiring learning environment. Use motivational techniques, such as real-world examples, success stories, and engaging activities to stimulate students' interest.



## Collaborative Learning

Encourage collaborative learning experiences to enhance motivation. Engage students in group activities that involve using new vocabulary and fostering communication.

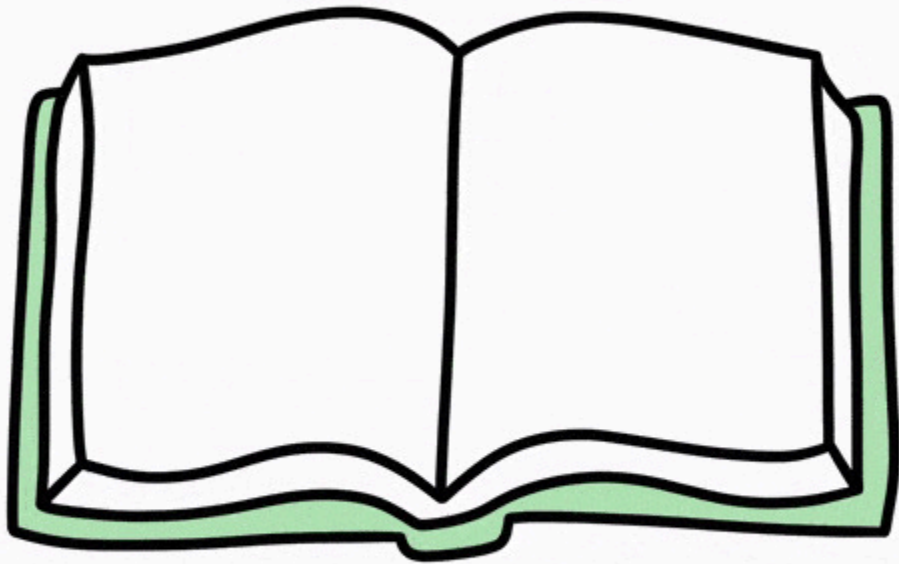


## Celebrate Progress

Recognize and celebrate students' progress in vocabulary acquisition. Acknowledge their efforts and achievements, creating a sense of accomplishment and fostering a positive learning mindset.

# Conclusion

By implementing these strategies, you can transform the way you teach vocabulary. Remember to choose high-coverage words, personalize learning, and provide ample opportunities for recycling and reinforcement. Foster learner independence and captivate students with meaningful contexts. With these tactics, you will empower your students to confidently navigate the intricacies of language, expanding their vocabulary and unlocking a world of opportunities.



## References and further reading

The following links and resources explore the areas discussed in this module in more detail:

- An article which gives practical ideas on how to record and recycle vocabulary

[Recycling vocabulary](#) | [TeachingEnglish](#) | [British Council](#)

- A free, online tool to make your own word searches as well as lots of other puzzles

[Online Puzzlemaker](#) | [Create Your Own Puzzle](#) | [Discovery Education Puzzlemaker](#)

- An article with further information on presenting vocabulary

[Presenting vocabulary](#) | [TeachingEnglish](#) | [British Council](#)

- Practical activities to help learners with vocabulary learning

[Vocabulary activities](#) | [TeachingEnglish](#) | [British Council](#)

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