

The Impact of Foreign Vocabulary in Improving Speaking Skills

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Abstract:

Language and speech are the means of communication of the universal being and apply not only to humanity but also to the whole world. Teaching and learning English, which has become the most widely spoken language in the world, has already become an integral part of our lives. This article also covers issues of increasing vocabulary of English and use it effectively in learning and teaching.

Keywords: communication, foreign language, vocabulary, meaning, spelling, alternate definitions, modern demand, memorize, concept, enrichment.

Language and speech are the means of communication of the universal being and apply not only to humanity but also to the whole world. Therefore, the field of language learning, which is becoming one of the most pressing issues of modern demand, is a great future foundation, especially for young generation. Nowadays, the English language is taking its first steps on every field as it covers the whole world. For example, in the field of education, this language can be divided into 4 stages, which include preschool education, secondary education, secondary special education and higher education. In addition, the rapidly growing business direction is also due to the strong ties established with foreign countries, which is directly related to the foreign languages, especially English.

The fact of the matter that when learning a new language, your focal point should always lean more toward finding new ways to improve your vocabulary rather than grammar. Regardless of whether you are studying English at school, enjoying your summer vacation or you are not even a student, at all, these following methods are your secure path to growth and enrichment in the English vocabulary department. Some statistics and scientists claim that words are the basic blocks of the language, and one of the key predictors of someone's education level, profession and social status. Below are given tactics to overcome learning problems and learn new words faster, recall them more effectively, and remember them forever:

Using Dictionary

A dictionary is the first indispensable resource to improve your vocabulary. It's only by looking up a word in a dictionary that you will learn its precise meaning, spelling, alternate definitions, and find much more useful information about it. A thesaurus is also a valuable resource for learning by finding connections between words, such as their synonyms and antonyms. Consider adding a good dictionary and thesaurus to your bookshelf.

Learning the words with fun

Word games may not be enough in and of themselves, but they are a fun and effortless way to increase the recall speed of the vocabulary you know already, as well as to pick up an occasional new word from your peers. You may, for example, try your own variation of "Word Evening": at a specific day of each week, a different person brings a new word to the meal. The person reads the word, defines it, and the others must come up with a sentence using the word.

Making the vocabulary personal, and emotional

You have probably heard stories of car crash survivors who can remember every little detail before the accident. We have also all experienced how difficult it can be to forget something we have been told that touched us to the heart. Rather than settling for a boring sentence like “The photo is on the table,” try something like “The photo of my wife fell off the desk just when I got the call”. There is now a very visual story forming around the vocab, it is emotionally impactful, and assuming you keep a photo of your significant other on your desk, also immediately relatable! Try to think of new vocabulary in context of the people you know, places you are familiar with or important events in your life. Just make sure not to go overboard with the imagery, lest you get traumatized every time you need to use one of the words...

Give meaningful stress to each word

Research has shown that our brain understands new verbal concepts better when they are linked to an image or another concept. For example, if you learn the word "temperament", you may link its meaning to "temperature" to memorize it easier, and more importantly, be able to recall its meaning based on that connection at any given time. The concepts you connect do not have to be related in any way as long as they help you memorize new vocabulary.

Make observations

Once you have a specific amount of words in your vocabulary list, try to look at the world around you to find examples of their usage, e.g. in songs, movies, newspapers, etc. This is highly beneficial because not only can you observe the context this new vocabulary is being used in but you can also see the collocations that can be formed, as well – something you cannot necessarily achieve by sheer flipping through a dictionary. Knowing when and how vocabulary is used is actually more important than just knowing its meaning.

Use Lists and Flash Cards

It can also be helpful to learn new words in groups centered on a particular theme. You can use a textbook to find useful vocabulary word lists, or you can look online for ready-made flash cards to practice new words by category. Your dictionary, flash cards can be tailored to your own interests and then shared with others, or you can browse some collections to find an existing list that covers that topic. Flash cards are a great way to study for a test, prepare for the SATs (Standard Assessment Test) or just explore vocabulary for your personal enjoyment.

Learn a Word Each Day

There is a reason why word-a-day desktop calendars are so popular. Adding to your vocabulary in small bites is very manageable and more easily remembered. You may even find yourself looking forward to a new ritual of reading about an interesting word, its definition and linguistic heritage. If you do not want a physical calendar, try using an online dictionary to look up words at random every morning before you open your email. You can also try downloading a daily vocabulary app or game to play on your smartphone for a few minutes each day.

Follow a Process

To make vocabulary improvement a permanent habit in your everyday life, you should make it as habitual, automatic and tightly integrated in your daily workflow as possible – otherwise you will not do it when your days get too busy.

Do something different

Do something different from your daily routine: hunting, fishing or blogging – any activity that is not a part of your normal life can become a great way to learn new words, as every niche has its own jargon and unique ways of communicating. Read different books and magazines than the ones you are used to. Watch foreign-language movies. Take up new hobbies, hang out with different people. By doing things out of the ordinary you will not only improve your vocabulary but also make your life much more interesting.

Use your imagination

Take a new approach to each new word you memorize. Is it hard to remember or pronounce them? So, different pictures, characters and colors will help you. Always stick the words you are learning in eye-catching places with pictures, and find that word by giving it your own description every time you look at it. Imagine if you memorized every word that was difficult for you in this way, a new world would appear in your life. Then these words in the common language have their own meaning, that is, the same for everyone, but they mean the same thing to you based on your own worldview.

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