

Teaching Vocabulary in Communicative Language Classroom

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What does it mean to know and learn new vocabulary?

- Vocabulary is a necessary ingredient for all communication
- A large vocabulary is needed for overall language success
- As a language teacher, one of our main tasks is to help students develop a rich and useful vocabulary inventory.
- Knowing a word involves a whole lot more (pronunciations, meanings, contexts, collocations, spellings, etc.)
- Knowledge of vocabulary involves receptive and productive skills
- We learn vocabulary implicitly and explicitly
- Learning vocabulary is a cumulative process and it must be actively taught, learned, and recycled

Important first steps in L2 vocabulary teaching!

- Have a communicative purpose (a reason to learn the words)
- Provide Comprehensible input and good models
- Organize effective practice (lots of repetition, recognition and recall)
- Start with input-work to output (receptive to productive skills)
- Teach vocabulary within context accompanied by some type of visual or aural aid
- Enhance learning with culturally authentic visuals/illustrations
- Practice vocabulary in various contexts in order to remember it and to develop an understanding of the range of usage of a given word
- Frequent and effective practice (engagement), 8 -12 encounters are needed
- Have learners manipulate new vocabulary in different ways (receptive and productive skills)
- A combination of speaking and writing activities must be used
- The more engagement learners have with a word, the better it will be retained.
- Help students learn and use effective strategies
- Assess learning

NOTES:
