

# PROBLEMS OF TEACHING VOCABULARIES TO 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE LEARNERS

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## *Abstract*

This article looks at the common difficulties teachers face when teaching vocabulary to 7th grade students. Many learners struggle to remember new words, rely too much on translation, feel unsure about pronunciation, and sometimes lose motivation. The paper suggests using simple, engaging activities to make lessons more interesting and meaningful. It shows that when learning is interactive and enjoyable, students remember vocabulary better, feel more confident, and improve their overall communication skills.

**Keywords:** vocabulary teaching, 7th grade learners, language learning, vocabulary acquisition, teaching strategies, motivation, pronunciation, classroom activities, communicative competence, student engagement

## Introduction

Vocabulary is the collection of words that we use in our language. They are very essential for role in language and communication. Without vocabulary we cannot express our ideas clearly and even we cannot make a sentence. Vocabularies are developing day by day and it is making some problems while learning and teaching. That's why we should focus on teaching vocabularies to young learners to develop their language and communication skills. Teachers need to apply engaging, meaningful and interactive activities that help students understand, remember and use new words in real-life contexts.

Teaching vocabulary have some difficulties, because all pupils are not the same and also they cannot remember vocabularies easily, and it can effect student's overall language development. One of the main problem is limited retention of new words. They usually memorize new words for a short period and after a while they forget the vocabularies that they memorized before. This usually

happens because words are taught in isolation without meaningful context or repeated practice.

Another common problem is the overuse of translation. When they see a new word, their first reaction is to ask for its meaning in their native language. While translation can sometimes help, it does not always teach students how to actually use the word. As a result, they might know what a word means but feel unsure about using it in a sentence or conversation.

Pronunciation is also a difficulty for many 7th graders. Some English words are long or unfamiliar and students may feel embarrassed if they pronounce them incorrectly. This fear can reduce their confidence and prevent them from speaking in class. When students are not confident, they prefer to stay silent rather than practice new vocabulary.

Motivation plays a big role as well. If vocabulary lessons only involve writing definitions and memorizing lists, Students can become bored. As a result, they may lose interest and not remember the words for a long time. To make learning more effective, teachers can use games, group activities, pictures, and real-life examples. When students are actively involved and enjoy the lesson, they are more likely to remember new vocabulary and use it confidently in their speaking and writing.

#### Literature review

Vocabulary learning has been widely discussed in language education. Researchers note that learning vocabulary is not only about memorizing meanings, but also about understanding pronunciation, spelling, and proper usage in context. Alqahtani, M. (2015) emphasizes that vocabulary is a fundamental element of foreign language learning and plays an important role in developing communicative competence. The author also highlights that teachers should carefully choose appropriate teaching techniques based on learners' level and needs. Wilkins, D.A. (1972) stresses the importance of vocabulary by stating that without vocabulary communication cannot take place effectively, even if grammar is known. Hatch, E., Brown, C. (2005) define vocabulary as a set of words used in

a language and underline that proper selection and teaching methods are essential for successful vocabulary learning.

Schmitt (2000) highlights that vocabulary acquisition is a gradual process involving form, meaning, and use. Students must not only understand the definition of a word but also know its pronunciation, grammatical behavior, and collocations. Research also suggests that young learners benefit greatly from interactive teaching methods.

### Suggested Activities for Vocabulary Teaching

To address these challenges, teachers can implement interactive and engaging activities.

#### Activity 1: Sentence Reconstruction

Students rearrange mixed words to form meaningful sentences. This activity helps them understand word order, grammar, and vocabulary usage in context.

Example 1. Mixed words:

plays / every day / football / he

Correct sentence:

He plays football every day.

Example 2.

Mixed words:

yesterday / went / we / to the park

Correct sentence:

We went to the park yesterday.

#### Activity 2: Crossword Puzzle

Learners complete crosswords based on given definitions. This improves vocabulary recognition and reinforces meaning through problem-solving.

#### **Across**

The main character in a story

The place where a story happens

The problem in the story

The final part of a story

A person who tells the story

### **Down**

The message or lesson of a story

A talk between characters

The events that happen in a story

Words that describe something

### Activity 3: Role-play and Imagination

Students participate in role-play activities based on imaginative scenarios. This encourages them to use vocabulary in real-life communication and enhances their speaking skills.

These activities promote context-based learning, increase motivation, and improve long-term retention of vocabulary.

### Conclusion

To sum up, teaching vocabulary to 7th grade learners is not always easy, but it is a very important part of developing students' language skills. At this stage, learners are still building their understanding of words, meanings, and how to use them in different contexts. Because of differences in motivation, memory, and learning pace, some students may struggle to remember and apply new vocabulary.

Therefore, teachers need to use a variety of teaching strategies that make lessons more engaging and meaningful. Instead of focusing only on memorization, it is helpful to include interactive activities, communication tasks, and visual support.

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