

# Vocabulary Retention in Foreign Language

# TEACHING & LEARNING VOCABULARY

- Teaching and learning vocabulary needs to be deeply focused and valued in the field of EFL.
- Inadequacy of vocabulary storage in a foreign language would cause limited comprehension and poor production in that language.



# VOCABULARY RETENTION

**Repetition,  
Retrieval,  
Spacing,  
Use**



are the techniques used for the retention of the new words.

## =*Repetition*=

- Repetition plays a vital role in the retention of the new words.
- Vocabulary acquisition research (Stahl & Fairbanks 1986) shows that providing learners with multiple exposures to a word helps retention.

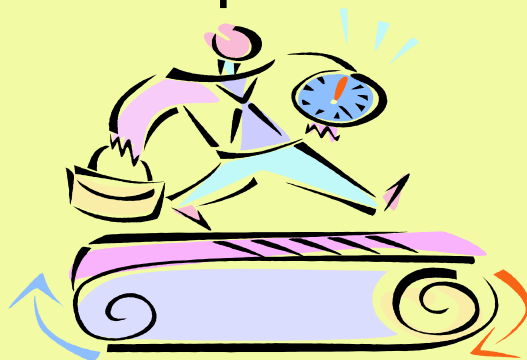


\* “ words stand a good chance of being remembered if they have been met at least seven times over spaced intervals.”

\*\*\*READING TEXTS if designed in this way (new words repeated several times) assist vocabulary retention.

# ***Activity 1: storytelling***

- Story telling is a good activity for **repetition**.
- New words can be repeated several times while telling the story.
- Before reading the text, the teacher can **make up a story** similar to the text and he/she can **repeat the new words** several times while telling the story.
- The teacher can ask **simple yes/no questions** using the words and provide repetition.



# Retrieval

- A student who can retrieve a word from the memory can easily **recall** it later.
- **Association** activities help retrieval.

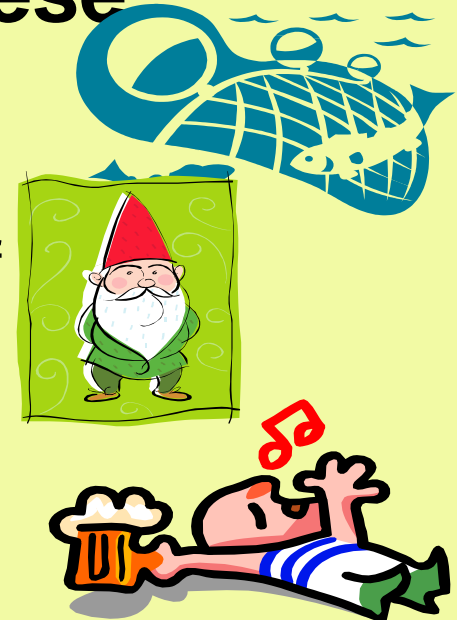


The word “**mendicant**” for example can easily be remembered by a Turkish student if it is **associated with a beggar** begging for money. Money is kept on a “mendil/ handkerchief”

# ***Association activity***

- **How would you remember these words?**

- piscatorial                      related to fishing
- leprechaun                    a creature in the form of little man
- inabriate                        a person who is drunk
- rumpus                          a lot of noise



\*\*\*These words can be retrieved easily if they are repeated, associated and practised / used in sentences.

## ***Try this !!***

- ***Look at these words and their definitions for 1 minute, then turn your back to the poster and try to recall them. Write **what** you remember and **why**.***
- ***1-Para -para ( money)    4- Bebek-bebek (baby)***
- ***2-Top -top ( ball )    5- çekmece-çekmedze (drawer)***
- ***3-Zincir -zindzir (chain)***
- ***Did you recall by associating it to an image, to sound, to sequence????....***



# SPACING

- It is better to distribute memory work over a period of time than to mass it together in a single block.



- Repeat those words at least seven times at different intervals with different activities.



# USE

- “ use it or lose it “
- Putting words to use, preferably in
- some interesting way, is the best
- method of ensuring they are added to long-term memory.
- Making up stories using the new words is a good activity.



# *Suggestions for vocabulary retention activities*

- 1- Do not teach more than **7 words** at a time.
- 2- Do a lot of **repetition**.
- 3- Teach new vocabulary at reasonable intervals- **space it**.
- 4- Teach **new styles** and **strategies** for vocabulary retention- help them to associate.
- 5- For a better comprehension, teach them reading skills ( skimming, scanning, reading for details etc.) and **practice a lot**.
- 6- Let them use the new words.
- 7- Let them use the text for different purposes ( word recognition, pronunciation, speaking, comprehension etc.) Different activities on the same text will help retention.

# REFERENCES

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