

Teaching vocabulary



Flashcards

Draw or cut out pictures from magazines (for example, numbers, sports, clothes, daily routines, greetings) to teach vocabulary in class. Stick the pictures on card to make reusable flashcards.

You can also use the TeachingEnglish flashcard maker www.teachingenglish.org.uk/flashcard-maker

- To teach new vocabulary, hold up a flashcard, say the word and ask learners to repeat. With younger learners you can keep it fun by drilling the words using different voices. Vary the volume – whisper and shout the words.
- Use flashcards to practise vocabulary in class. Here are some ideas:
 - Show the learners ten cards then turn them over. Ask learners to remember the pictures.
 - Cover a flashcard with a piece of paper and slowly reveal it. Learners guess which one it is.
 - Stick flashcards around the class. Say one of them and learners point or race to it.

A word bag

Did you know that you have to see a new word at least five times before you can usually use it and include it in your 'active' vocabulary?

- Make a class word bag to help learners learn new vocabulary. Let learners add new words to the bag each class. They can write on bits of paper or card.
- Very young learners can draw picture cards. You could nominate a different child to add words in each class.
- Play quick vocabulary games with the words; for example, take a word from the bag, give a short definition or mime and ask learners to guess the word.

Back to the board

Review vocabulary from an earlier lesson with this team game.

- Learners work in two or three groups. One volunteer from each group stands or sits with their back to the board.
- The teacher writes a word on the board and the group members explain the word to the volunteer (without using that word) until he or she guess the word and that team wins a point.
- Change 'volunteers' and repeat for six or seven words.
- You can have a noisy game where learners shout out their clues or a quieter, more controlled game where they take turns to speak.

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