

## Vocabulary

Vocabulary may be defined as the stock of words by a person, class or profession, in a broad sense.

Oxford dictionary defines the term as "all the words used by a particular person, or all the words that exist in a particular language or subject". Good classifies vocabulary in thirty six categories and gives the meaning of types including Basic reading vocabulary, listening vocabulary, recognition vocabulary, spelling vocabulary and comprehension vocabulary.

The order of words in a sentence, i.e. the foregrounds the meaning and one language form can have two meanings; the structural meaning and the lexical meaning.

## Types of Vocabulary

i) Content words have meaning and carry the meaning even when they stand independently.  
e.g. theatre

ii) Structural words add cohesion and structure to language expressions. Content words are structured

into meaningful sentences with the help of these 'form words'.

- iii) Active (Productive) words are those which a speaker or writer can apply in real communicative situation.
- iv) Passive (Recognition) vocabulary includes those words and phrases which a reader or listener can understand.

#### Techniques for Vocabulary Expansion

1- Cognate Fit: It refers to the similarity that exists between the English word and that in mother-tongue. The new word is presented in a variety of different sentences to show its range of meaning.

2- Paraphrasing: It will make the learners realize that there are several ways of expressing roughly the same idea.

3- Inference: Student may be taught to infer the meanings of new words from the context in which they are used.

4. Problem words: Problems arise when words in English and mother tongue do not cover the same range of meaning. Such words may be understood through reading and thus learned,



Every language is dynamic in the sense it goes on developing through word building. Here are a few ways:

- addition of affixes
- direct importation from other languages (e.g. *effluent*)
- joining two or more words (e.g. looking glass)
- joining (e.g. psychology = *psyche* + *logos*)
- derivation from proper names (e.g. 'academy' from Greek name for the garden near Athens)

Going beyond the techniques

- one can usefully expand vocabulary by:
  - reading: novels, newspapers or magazines
  - exploring websites
  - reading things in English that relate to your job or academic interests
  - watching films or videos
  - watching ~~sub~~ documentary programmes
  - listening to the radio
  - listening to songs
  - listening to audio books