



APPROACHING PRACTICAL VOCABULARY OF ENGLISH ENRICHMENT

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ABSTRACT

The ultimate aim of education is to equip the students with knowledge and make them successful in their The Modem education system strives to make the students employable to succeed in getting right placement. But the recent sur

veys shows clearly the bitter truth that only less than 19% graduates are employable, remaining students are lagging behind particularly because of their poor communicative skills. It is crystal clear that vocabulary plays a vital role in effective communication skills. So this article highlights the strategies to develop vocabulary with a practical approach.

Introduction:

If one wants to communicate effectively it is essential that one should possess the best and amp vocabulary. What is vocabulary? The treasure of words is vocabulary. Words and their mean synonyms, antonyms, one word substitutes or idioms and phrasal verbs are regarded as vocabulary Without mindful of words and their meanings it is not possible to express the intended views effectively. If a person does not know sufficient words and their meanings, he cannot speak eloquently and there may be some pauses while he speaks. On the other hand, if he knows sufficient words and their meaning he can speak fluently and eloquently.

Memorisation method won't help for vocabulary development: All the people want to develop their vocabulary but they don't know how to do it, more over some students think that vocabulary cas also be by-hearted as they do in the case of essays and short answers. But vocabulary can't be improved through by-hearting method and vocabulary development is not possible over night or within a month and the like. Some students try to read or study the dictionary, but it is not right because dictionary should be consulted contextually but not to be read. While reading the dictionary one feels all the words seem to be familiar but after closing it one should be at sea as one doesn't remember even single word, hence it is of no use.

Contextual Learning for Vocabulary Development: Vocabulary can be developed gradually with a determined practice. While practicing various language skills one can find many difficult or new words immediately it is needed to consult a standard dictionary to know the meanings of those words. But while reading something, there may be a lot of words which are difficult or new, so it is not possible remember all those words at a single instance, so at least some important words to understand the concept to be selected and get the meanings of those words. By doing like this they can understand the concept and the vocabulary can also be developed. It is difficult to learn and remember many words at once so it is better to try to learn at least three or four words a day; those are also according to the context. Contextual learning is very effective in the matter of vocabulary development.

Practical Usage helps for Vocabulary Development:

It is very important that each learned word should be used in the day to day life. Practical application of learned words is very essential for vocabulary development. While consulting a dictionary for the meaning of a word it is necessary to learn its different forms, different meanings and their contextual usages. Use of idioms and phrasal verbs and one word substitutes is special asset for vocabulary enrichment. Appropriate use of idioms and phrasal verbs while communicating gives an excellent impression which attracts the audience. Similarly they can speak effectively and attract audience with apt and effective use of one word substitutes. It is advisable to learn sufficient effective idioms and phrasal verbs for effective communication. Knowing is not enough, doing is very imperative, which means known idioms and phrasal verbs should be used contextually to make the conversation effective and impressive.

Idioms and Phrasal Verbs are Ornaments of Communication:

Conversations with idiomatic expressions are always effective and impressive. It is difficult to converse in the modern world without idioms and phrasal verbs. An idiom or phrasal verb is a term or phrase whose meaning is different from the dictionary definitions and the arrangement of elements; it refers to a figurative meaning that known only through conventional use. Idioms are manners of communication which are natural to native speakers of particular language. Appropriate use of idioms and phrasal verbs makes conversations effective and impressive. It has become necessary to use them the modern conversations. Effective use of them mirrors the in-depth command of a person over English language and makes him an excellent orator.

Fan Learning:

While learning idioms and phrasal verbs from the articles in the newspapers learners experience fun as they can have funny examples with newly learnt idioms and phrasal verbs such as;

- Shake a leg with...

[Dance with someone]

Ex: He tried to shake a leg with Katrina

- Grab the eyeball

[Attractive/impressive]

Ex: The charming girl tried to grab the eyeball of her fiancé

Impressive Expressions:

Learners can learn certain impressive idioms and phrasal verbs from the articles in the newspapers such as;

- All in all
[An efficient in all fields]
Ex: Rabindranath Tagore is an all in all in literature.
- A turncoat.
(A person who always changing his ideas)
Ex: We should not depend upon him because he is a turncoat
- A red letter day
[A holiday]
Ex: We shall go on a picnic on a red-letter day
- Foot the bill.
[Ready to pay the bill]
Ex: The two friends compete to foot the bill.

An Experiment to learn and use Idioms and Phrasal Verbs:

As an initial strategy in Spoken English courses students were advised to cultivate the habit of reading an English newspaper. They were asked to identify the use of idioms and phrasal verbs in the news articles. Undoubtedly they found them effective in communicating so the learners were encouraged to identify and learn the idioms and phrasal verbs in the news article while reading the newspaper. The students were encouraged to explain the identified and learnt idioms and phrasal verbs to the fellow learners in the class, it created an effective contextual learning environment. The learners enthusiastically came forward to explain with new idioms and phrasal verbs and the peers were also motivated to learn and explain the new idioms and phrasal verbs brought from the articles in the newspapers. After a few days the learners felt overjoyed to see the improvement in their vocabulary. Further to their surprise they conquered their stage fear and hesitation to communicate in English with others.

Conclusion: As the above experiment showed fruitful results in spoken English classes, it was tried with engineering students. During the first year and third year engineering in the English language communication skills laboratory and advanced English communication skills laboratory students were asked to cultivate the habit of reading an English newspaper to develop communication skills while reading news articles they need to spot the idioms and phrasal verbs, learn them and try to explain them to the fellow students with contextual references and appropriate examples. This innovative activity proved successful to attract many students to participate in the activity as explaining ensured effective learning. Gradually all the students came forward with lot of new expressions with idioms and phrasal verbs. Apart from remarkable enrichment in the vocabulary students proved themselves as effective communicators.

Bibliography

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