

# IMPROVING VOCABULARY OF HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS THROUGH READING AUTHENTIC NEWSPAPERS IN TEACHING EFL

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**Abstract:** *the goal of teaching a foreign language is the ability to communicate. In this process the knowledge of vocabulary plays an imperative role. The richer and more diverse a student's vocabulary is, the more freely the student speaks and expresses the thoughts in the target language. It is in this regard that an emphasis should be placed on the methodology and tools for teaching vocabulary, in particular in high school. This article focuses on examining the value of using newspapers in the English classroom and considering the forms and methods of working with authentic newspaper material to activate students' vocabulary.*

**Keywords:** *english, vocabulary, newspaper, teaching, methods.*

## УЛУЧШЕНИЕ СЛОВАРНОГО ЗАПАСА СТАРШЕКЛАССНИКОВ ПОСРЕДСТВОМ ЧТЕНИЯ АУТЕНТИЧНЫХ ГАЗЕТ В ОБУЧЕНИИ АНГЛИЙСКОМУ КАК ИНОСТРАННОМУ ЯЗЫКУ

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**Аннотация:** *целью обучения иностранному языку является умение общаться. В этом процессе знание словарного запаса играет императивную роль. Чем богаче и разнообразнее словарный запас студента, тем свободнее он говорит и выражает мысли на изучаемом языке. Именно в этом отношении следует сделать акцент на методологии и средствах обучения лексике, особенно в старших классах школы. Эта статья посвящена исследованию ценности использования газет в классе английского языка и рассмотрению форм и методов*

*работы с аутентичными газетными материалами для активизации словарного запаса учащихся.*

**Ключевые слова:** *английский язык, лексика, газета, обучение, методика.*

Significant changes in English language learning strategies have occurred over the last 20 years, especially in the context of a foreign language teaching. Teaching a foreign language involves the formation of a general cultural foreign language competence, including communicative, cognitive, intercultural and discursive components. For the successful formation of all these components, students need knowledge of the vocabulary and grammar of the foreign language being studied. But the vocabulary knowledge is prevalent. Vocabulary acquisition is related to how people increase the number of words they understand as they learn a new language. Therefore, mastering a sufficiently large vocabulary is one of the important tasks encountered by foreign language learners.

The aim of his article is to examine the value of using newspapers in the classroom and to determine how to organize learning vocabulary effectively. Newspapers act as a supporting educational instrument in foreign language contexts, in addition to distributing news around the country and around the world. Using newspapers is one of the most effective methods of learning English for non-native speakers.

The simplest and quickest way to get over the challenges of teaching English as a foreign language is to support teaching with authentic materials. Teachers can use authentic materials such as newspapers and journals to engage and support students while enhancing their English vocabulary acquisition. Following that, several scholars agreed that, in comparison to textbooks, the English newspaper has a greater scope of subject matter. The explanation for this is that newspapers represent real-life events in the world, which makes them more realistic to students than textbooks [1].

Many researchers supported the use of newspapers in the advancement of foreign language skills [2,3,4,5]. In addition to improving students' essential English skills, they might be inspired to read about current news more, and they might even enjoy the process. With the help of newspapers teachers can diversify English lessons, as well as create motivating atmosphere in the classroom. As a result, newspapers can be used in a variety of ways to teach spoken, written skills, as well as to expand vocabulary and improve the accent.

According to Efe, Demiroz, and Akdemir [6] authentic materials are educational resources that may be selected to teach genuine and natural skills, competences, and abilities. Newspapers are one of the best materials for expressing everyday spoken language as well as cultural values and idioms, while spreading information through communities and countries.

If English lessons are designed to involve newspaper articles, learners may gain more usefulness. Their advantages would include:

- gaining knowledge of cultural and daily language trends;
- expressing simple phrases about news;
- deeper comprehending everyday news when they hear it in their native language.

Using newspapers to teach vocabulary has other benefits for the teacher. These benefits involve:

- immediate access to materials;
- time and expense savings;
- utilization of latest information.

The primary goal of newspapers is to spread information about local and international affairs, culture, business, education, and other topics. Newspapers are perceived as excellent tools for learning languages, presenting community materials such as sport, education, cultural events, geographical, and historical columns for a wide range of people, including students. According to Bello [7] newspapers have been an important tool in the arsenal of activity-based English teachers. Unlike common teaching approaches such as books and blackboards, English newspapers enable students to learn the language in a more natural environment. Newspapers include everyday vocabulary and a lot of idiomatic expressions of the culture. We can find various language styles that are not available in textbooks, and use newspapers to explore them in a variety of ways – for academic writing, as a text for grammar and stylistics, and so on. Natural events foster students' interest and offer not only information, but also a realistic way to engage students in language learning. Reading the newspapers is often enjoyable and entertaining for the learners, as opposed to memorizing grammatical rules by repetition.

Teachers may use the articles written in newspapers to come up with new ways to teach EFL, as events and the information are revised every day. Teachers can effectively improve analytical and critical thinking in their students by using newspapers. Textbooks are published every few years, while newspapers are continually updated to have the most up-to-date material. Newspapers support students in comprehending cultural expression and reflecting developments in the English language. Learners who read a lot of publications have a strong idea of what society is all about.

However, newspaper articles, like all authentic content, can suffer from the disadvantage of being too original to be learned by elementary students. In this scenario, reviewing the content before bringing it to the classroom is the wisest option. Although Akdemir [6] recommends simplifying the content, he also stresses the importance of maintaining the material's authenticity. Before presenting written materials in the classroom, Efe [6] suggests that they should be modified and simplified if possible. Newspapers should be set up to help students improve their reading comprehension, grammatical skills, vocabulary competence, writing skills, and critical thinking abilities. Newspapers should be arranged according to the skills to be taught in the classroom. Before selecting a

paper, it is important to consider the length of the text, the time available, and the student's capacity to comprehend the depth of the content.

The majority of people read local newspapers because they are simple to comprehend. Multiple newspapers can be obtained via the internet. The below are few points to bear in mind:

- If the paper is complicated, it will take longer for the student to become interested.

- If the students are interested in the subject, they will be more likely to learn.

- To make the assignment more enjoyable, it should be designed in a systematic manner.

- Students would not feel self-conscious when they look at the weather forecast, ads, and broadsheets.

- Images and illustrations presented in newspapers may often be useful for organizing activities among students, such as discussions in groups and describing objects and cases using the picture.

Specific pre-activity exercises, especially vocabulary tasks, will help students learn more effectively when we provide them the material as homework to help them acquire the skills the next day. Brain storming technique can be used successfully for this intention. Students may guess what the definition is depending on the context and recommend alternate names to use as questions are posed. They will easily deduce the meaning from a glimpse, rendering newspaper practices multi-dimensional. Students can acquire new words from picture stories, movie screen grabs, well-known celebrities, literary rubrics, job interviews, TV guidelines, horoscopes, and weather forecasts, among other places where language can be applied successfully for a range of purposes around the globe.

The first challenge is to choose a suitable subject, appropriate text content for the age group, and a duration that is relevant for the class time allocated. Teachers of English should also use the most recent and trendy issues from the newspapers to request students to write a short description of the news in several statements, which can help them develop their reading and writing skills. The teachers may also encourage the students to deliver an overview of the news story to the class, allowing them to practice their speech and presenting skills. Afterward, the teachers may request the students compare the differences in vocabulary, grammatical structure, and other aspects of the news from several different publications. The students collaborate in groups and come up with a variety of responses. This practice develops learners' logical thinking and problem-solving skills, as well as their comprehension of the vocabulary norms used by numerous newspapers. A newspaper should be used in a variety of ways to teach diverse subjects in order to enhance the efficiency of teaching and education. Students should be assigned a newspaper activity after the subject has been presented.

Thus, to develop vocabulary competence, the following teaching methods are crucial:

- Give the students an article to read in order to explore challenging vocabulary so that they can construct a word list with the descriptions of the words written in it.
- Give them a set of several words from an article and ask them to compose a paragraph that includes all of these words.
- Solicit their guesses for the meaning of a word from the context, and then compare their guesses to the real meaning using a dictionary.
- Let them notice how various types of vocabulary are used for different uses, such as narratives, commercials, letters, and casual dialogues.
- Let them recognize verbs and nouns by reading the headlines or titles of articles, then using the dictionary to look up synonyms and antonyms for these nouns and verbs. After that, make them write the words in their diary in alphabetical order.
- Crossword and word puzzles are excellent ways to expand learners' vocabulary.
- Students should be given an article to read and highlight the phrases that they find challenging. Once the teacher has explained the meanings of the words, students will be prompted to create a sentence with all of the words separately, and then announce the sentences to the rest of the class.
- Suggest that they make a list of vocabulary items such as idioms and phrasal verbs, analyze how they are used in context, and then include them in their own sentences.

Although all of the terminology required couldn't be available in newspapers, the relevant terms surrounding a specific word should be captured, and pair work should be allocated to predict the definition using a dictionary, as well as to identify the antonym and synonym for that specific word. Different forms of the word, such as adjectives, verbs, and nouns, may be explored. Students might also try to construct their own sentences using the term they've selected. It is possible to study the lexical content and grammar exponents such as reported speech and sentence structure. We should also see how the text is sufficient for role-playing, group discussion, and pair work.

Students should be instructed to read the text at a fast pace during the first reading in order to understand the basic idea of the text. They should recognize the key point or emphasis of the topic in the second reading, and it should be read in depth to fully comprehend the article. Follow-up is important, and a role play should be designed to explore and debate the subject, as well as comparative exercises and critical review to enhance the student's thinking capacity.

In the classroom, students are also taught to listen to authentic foreign language speech by radio and television programs. Students are encouraged to listen to the main types of modern English media speech, namely: news,

journalism, information analytics and advertising followed by speech. The following resources are actively used in the lessons: [www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/console/bbc\\_world-service](http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/console/bbc_world-service); [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) – top news, videos and communities. Along with traditional teaching methods that allow achieving good results in terms of increasing motivation to learn English, innovative methods such as collaborative learning, test technologies, project method, debate and others are widely used.

### **Conclusion**

Reading newspapers in English has a number of advantages. First, learners receive information from the original source. Secondly, they expand not only their passive, but also active vocabulary, since the original newspapers present a living language with phraseological units, idioms, proverbs and slang. It is also worth noting that reading newspapers on relevant topics motivates students to expand and deepen their knowledge performing presentations and projects on the given topic.

The use of newspapers and other non-textbook content brings diversity to the classroom and makes EFL learning more engaging, practical, and relevant to real-life situations. Teachers should be creative when it comes to using materials in the classroom since English newspapers is one of the most effective tools for improving vocabulary language skills.

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