

THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVING SPORTS VOCABULARY

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Abstract: The article focuses on developing vocabulary of Sport College students and ways of improving them on certain topics, which existed on educational programs

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When learning a foreign language, building a strong vocabulary is crucial. It connects the essential skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing, allowing for effective communication. To communicate proficiently in a foreign language, students need to acquire a sufficient amount of words and understand how to use them accurately. Without a strong vocabulary foundation, fluency and comprehension can be hindered. As I am a teacher at Sport College, increasing my students' vocabulary and ways of improving it on certain topics is close to the aim of our research work.

As Taylor pointed out "Vocabulary is central to language teaching and learning" [2; iv]. Having a strong vocabulary is essential for both teaching and learning. If students are unfamiliar with the meanings of words, they will struggle to comprehend what they read, see, and study. According to Thorbury [3; 13], "The ability of English will improve significant if we learn more words. We can say very little with grammar, but we can say almost anything with word". It means that the students' English learning ability will increase if they know more words on a certain topic during the lesson and they can express anything if they master many words and phrases.

Having done a good deal of research in deferent sources we clarified teaching sports vocabulary is important for several reasons. Firstly, it helps learners to communicate effectively in a variety of settings, such as sports competitions, sports-related interviews, and discussions with coaches and teammates. Secondly, it helps learners to understand the rules, regulations, and strategies of different sports, which enables them to engage more fully and effectively in these activities. Thirdly, learning sports vocabulary can promote physical activity and healthier lifestyles by increasing learners' interest and enthusiasm for sports. Moreover, teaching sports vocabulary can also foster

intercultural understanding, as sports are often played and enjoyed across different cultures and languages. Generally, teaching sports vocabulary is crucial for both language and physical development, and it can provide learners with a range of benefits that extend beyond the language classroom.






According to Cross [1; 5] "A major aim of most teaching programs is to help students gaining a large vocabulary of useful words". It means that the main purpose of teaching activities is to give more vocabularies to the students. Therefore the teacher should be aware how important of teaching vocabulary is and be aware of give them an opportunity to fill these words in the activities. Cross [1;15] also states that there are two main ways to teach (introduce vocabulary); showing the meaning directly and use language that the students already know". It implies that the teacher can show the meaning of words directly rather than translation, when the students do not know or recognize it yet. When the students already know the meaning of words the teacher can use the sentences to show the meaning clearly. It is used to stimulate the students to enlarge their vocabularies.

As a helpful assistant of my students, I would like to add that learning new words can be challenging, but it can also be fun and rewarding. One effective method is to read extensively, either in English or in translation. This can expose the students to a diverse range of vocabulary and help them to understand the context in which these words are used. Another effective method is to use flashcards or word lists to memorize new words and to practice using them in sentences. By broadening their vocabulary, the students can become more confident and articulate communicators in English.

Creating the English classes enjoyable, I try to stimulate useful experience for the students I combine my ideas with Greg Wagstaff's activities for Teenagers [4], a teacher trainer, academic manager and EFL video content creator, which is beneficial for my students and me.

Activity: '5, 4, 3, 2, 1'

- Pupils pick a vocabulary item (e.g., 'rugby').
- They write five clues for the item, incorporating as much target language as possible. These five clues should decrease in difficulty from numbers five to one.
- After each clue is read, pupils write what the vocabulary item might be.
- Between zero and five points are awarded to a pupil according to when they first guessed, and then maintained, the correct answer (see below for example scoring sheets).

- 5. This sport is played on a pitch 
- 4. You wear shorts and boots 
- 3. There are two sets of post but no net 
- 2. Players wear mouth guards but not helmets 
- 1. You use an oval ball 

The activity is suitable for both grammar items and vocabulary items and appropriate for all levels as well. As I have mentioned previously the occasional way of adapting an activity, generally the differentiation for each level will come in the target language used you expect of the pupils. Furthermore, in terms of age, the activities are mostly suitable for teenagers and above. The results of the activities should be kept and recapped on in next lessons.

References

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