

READING TEXT TO IMPROVE ENGLISH VOCABULARY OF LEARNERS

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Reading is one of the most important foundational skills in language learning. For learners of English, engaging with a variety of texts can significantly enhance vocabulary development. Exposure to new words, phrases, and contexts through reading helps build a robust vocabulary, which is essential for effective communication and academic success.

One of the primary benefits of reading for vocabulary improvement is the exposure to new words. Reading a wide range of texts introduces learners to vocabulary that they might not encounter in everyday conversations. This exposure helps learners understand the meaning and usage of words in different contexts. A study by Alshahrani (2019) found that storybook reading strategies significantly enhanced vocabulary skills among both English-only and ESL students. This indicates that regular reading can introduce learners to a broader lexicon, enriching their language proficiency.

Reinforcement through repetition is also a key factor in vocabulary development. Regular reading exposes learners to the same words multiple times, reinforcing their understanding and retention. This repetition is crucial for moving new vocabulary from short-term to long-term memory. The importance of vocabulary in reading comprehension is well-documented, with larger vocabularies being strong predictors of reading development. Consistent exposure to vocabulary through reading ensures that learners can recall and use new words effectively.

To maximize the benefits of reading for vocabulary improvement, several strategies can be implemented. Encouraging learners to read a variety of texts, including books, articles, and online content, ensures exposure to different vocabulary and writing styles. Teaching active reading techniques, such as highlighting new words, making notes, and looking up definitions, helps in better understanding and retention of vocabulary. Additionally, discussing the texts and using new vocabulary in writing and speaking can reinforce learning. Reading aloud can also improve pronunciation and fluency, while reinforcing vocabulary through auditory learning.

Reading is a powerful tool for improving English vocabulary among learners. By exposing students to new words, providing contextual learning, reinforcing vocabulary through repetition, and engaging them with diverse texts, reading can significantly enhance vocabulary development. Educators should incorporate varied reading materials and active reading strategies to maximize the benefits of reading for vocabulary improvement.

References:

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