

Spread the Word!

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In this session we shall look at what's involved in learning a word, and various ways we can help students improve their level of vocabulary, with both in-class activities and self-study.



- What's involved in learning a word
- Some beliefs about learning and teaching vocabulary
- The role of the teacher
- Practical classroom and self-study activities and techniques





What's involved in learning a word?



**International
House**
Portugal

What's involved in learning a word?

- meaning
- form
- part of speech
- similarity/difference to learner's L1
- pronunciation
- collocation
- style
- register
- connotation
- synonyms and antonyms
- frequency
- range of use
- medium



Beliefs in Learning Vocabulary

- noticing



Vocabulary

Compound words

- 1** Match the words from box A with the words from box B to make compound words. Then match the compound words with definitions 1-8.

A

~~back~~ camp cross guide over sight sign suit

B

book case night ~~pack~~ post roads seeing site

- 1 a bag that you carry on your back *backpack*
- 2 a book that gives information about a place
- 3 a bag with a handle for carrying clothes, etc.
- 4 a place where two roads meet and cross each other
- 5 a sign by the road that gives information
- 6 during the night and until the morning
- 7 a place where people can stay overnight in tents
- 8 visiting interesting places

Several years ago, my house was broken into while I was at a children's fair. When we came back, we noticed the front gate was open, but since our neighbours often leave fruit or veg for us, we didn't think this was that strange. So the first time we realised we'd had unwanted visitors was when we saw the back door, which had been completely caved in. They'd taken the tv, the video, the hi-fi. They'd gone through all our drawers and shelves – they'd really turned the place upside down.

We called the police and they eventually turned up and took fingerprints – which left an even bigger mess than the burglars had. They didn't hold out much hope of catching them – in fact they suggested we went down to Feira de Ladra to see if we could spot any of our stuff!

Anyway, the funniest thing was the next morning. I got up and had a shower and went to get dressed and opened my wardrobe to find my options had been severely limited – they'd taken practically all of my clothes! But not just the good stuff – old working jeans, ancient skirts – the lot!

Fortunately, we had insurance, so about two months later we got the money back from the insurance company.

The other thing that someone only pointed out to us later was that we merrily barged in the house, but of course the robbers could still have been inside – possibly armed! It doesn't bear thinking about!





Beliefs in Learning Vocabulary

- noticing
- mining texts



Beliefs in Learning Vocabulary

- noticing
- mining texts
- personalisation

a) He's trying to ignore the press and maintain his disconnection.

b) His job involves telling orders to his inferiors.

c) It's in the middle of nature.

d) It's very ancient.

e) Jewellery repairation.

a) He's trying to ignore the press and maintain his disconnection.

b) His job involves telling orders to his inferiors.

c) It's in the middle of nature.

d) It's very ancient.

e) Jewellery reparation.

a) He's trying to ignore the journalists and look as if he's not bothered by them.

b) His job involves giving orders to other people under him.

c) It's in the middle of the countryside.

d) It's extremely old.

e) Jewellery repairs.



Beliefs in Learning Vocabulary

- noticing
- mining texts
- personalisation
- reformulation

bloke	comfort	choking	arguably	on the verge of
to thumb	safe and sound	a tricky situation	queue-jumping	
flesh-eating	economical	subtle	psychologist	urgency
bound	foregone	responsibility	glaring	short-sighted

Which words ...

1. ...do you have no problem remembering? Why is this?
2. ...can you match to a particular topic in the coursebook?
3. ...can you not remember seeing before?
4. ...do you think are the most useful to you? Why?
5. ...have you used recently? In which context?
6. ...do you understand but wouldn't have remembered unprompted?
7. ...are the most difficult for you pronounce? Why is this?
8. ...do you think you might misspell in future? Why is this?





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- reflection



Beliefs in Learning Vocabulary

- noticing
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- feedback for feed forward



Beliefs in Learning Vocabulary

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- challenge



Challenge





- something that needs great **mental** or physical **effort** in order to be **done successfully** and therefore **tests a person's ability**
- situation that is difficult because you must use a lot of **effort, determination, and skill** in order to be **successful**

dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/challenge

- **arousing** competitive **interest, thought, or action**
- **invitingly provocative** or **fascinating**





[Challenging | Definition of Challenging by Merriam-Webster](#)



study the words	fold	write	check: ✓ / x
cakes			
an apple			
cheese			
an ice-cream			

My teacher says:



	fold	write	check: ✓ / x
			
			
			
			

My teacher says:

I hope the sun will
come out soon.

It's pouring with rain,
so take your umbrella.

Open the window –
it's boiling in here!

I hope the sun will
come out soon.

It's **pouring with rain**,
so take your umbrella.

Open the window –
it's **boiling** in here!

I hope the sun will
start shining soon.

It's **raining a lot**, so
take your umbrella.

Open the window –
it's **very hot** in here!

look, memorise, cover, look up, ask/say

I hope the sun will
start shining soon.

I hope the sun will
come out soon.

It's **raining a lot**, so
take your umbrella.

It's **pouring with rain**,
so take your umbrella.

Open the window –
it's **very hot** in here!

Open the window –
it's **boiling** in here!

look, memorise, cover, look up, ask/say



I hope the sun will
come out soon.

It's **pouring with rain**,
so take your umbrella.

Open the window –
it's **boiling** in here!

look, memorise, cover, look up, ask/say



It will
boil.

It's **pouring with rain**,
so take your umbrella.

Open the window –
it's **boiling** in here!

look, memorise, cover, look up, ask/say

I hope the sun will
come out soon.

It's painful,
so tall, rilla.



Open the window –
it's boiling in here!

look, memorise, cover, look up, ask/say

I hope the sun will
come out soon.

It's pouring with rain,
so take your umbrella.

Oh
it's



Wow –
here!

prove me wrong!

art gallery book shop bridge cinema
department store factory fountain library
market monument shopping centre sports centre
stadium town hall youth club



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- reformulation
- reflection
- feedback for feed forward
- challenge
- learner training
- review and recycling



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- review and recycling
- integrated learning



The role of the teacher

- plan and organise
- enthuse and motivate
- guide and keep tabs on
- probe and problematise
- encourage
- assess
- explain



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Thank you!

