

## **METHODS FOR LEARNING VOCABULARY**

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Learning vocabulary: it must be the most interesting element of learning a language. And perhaps the most controversial. To bring a fantastically useful advice on learning vocabulary in your target language, a bunch of experts, authors, translators were asked the following question: if there was one method for learning vocabulary that you'd recommend to the world, which one would it be? The following replies create a bomb of extremely balanced advice and give the opportunity to judge for yourself how to best go about learning more words in your target language.

1. Never learn a single word by itself. Learn groups of words that «travel» together. For instance, instead of memorizing the word «flock», memorize the phrase «a flock of sheep». Instead of remembering the verb «to occur», remember the phrase «if any problems occur». When you remember phrases instead of single words, you ensure that you know how to use the word in at least one sentence.

2. There`s just basically no way around memorizing a bunch of words. So put the words where you will see them as often as possible: on a wall, in a notebook you carry around, on your computer desktop, etc. That way you can get in more review «reps» and memorize them more easily.

3. The next interesting method is learning languages through creative storytelling. By reading engaging stories (aimed at the student`s level) language learners can begin to build emotional and sensory contexts around new vocabulary. Instead of just studying isolated words by rote, new vocabulary can be memorized quicker and deeper because it is linked to characters, places and relationships, just like in real life.

4. Another tip for learning vocabulary is to describe the world around you regularly in the language you're learning. This exposes gaps in the vocabulary and gives the opportunities for active recall. For instance, one can try to describe what a man crossing the street is wearing. And then one can ask himself: Do I know the name for all his items of clothing in my target language? Do I know all of the colors? If there's a woman pushing a pram, do I know the word for «pram» in my foreign language? When one is exposed to something he doesn't know he needs to write it down and look it up later. The possibilities for this method are endless.

5. Another method is to make the target language relevant (e.g. tag familiar things around one's home using the target language, which should also include such things as shopping lists etc.). This helps to raise the language above the level of merely a code to something that has relevance to the way you live.

6. Embed your new language into your life and into your daily routine, not the other way around. Vocabulary varies with the situations in which you find yourself. All you need to do is to find a pattern with which you can repeat your newly acquired words regularly. Vary the situations and ways in which you review your vocabulary, write the words, listen to them, spell them, be creative and play with them. Don't lock yourself in the room, as learning in such way will be exactly what you don't want it to be: dull and isolating. Another tip: be aware of yourself and your goals. Don't limit your studying to preconceived notions or set situations given by somebody else. What do you talk about in your native language? Saying something in your new language will become much easier once you really want to say it. Your way of learning changes with your mood. Develop a sense of what works best for you straight away.

7. If you're a visual learner, a great way to improve vocabulary is by reading and writing. For reading, the fastest way to learn is to pick up a bilingual book. As you find words you don't know, you can simply look at the translation on the

facing page. Writing is helpful since it forces one to use the dictionary and look up words one is likely to need again.

8. Pat Wyman, the founder and CEO of HowToLearn. Com states that the best way to recall vocabulary is via pictures with association. Neuroscience says this makes memory stronger and faster. If you connect a picture of the word in your mind with what it remind you of then when you want to recall the word, you look up and see the image and the connection of what it reminds you of. For instance, a Portuguese word Lago means lake. If you draw a log in a lake, then take a mental snapshot of it and look up during your test to recall the image, connected to the lake, you will recall that lago means lake.

9. The founder of Unlimited Spanish, Oscar Pellus, states that the brain loves context. This approach to learning is about to learn full phrases instead of just words. Oscar says that it's easy to create a picture in our minds when we see a phrase because something is happening. The more vivid the image is, the better it will be learned. Also, instead of just being limited to phrases, one can learn words through stories, through texts. Stories are built up of phrases, and threrefore they have the advantages as they provide a much richer context, because many things are going on in the story. This way the brain can learn in a more subconscious, natural and deeper way, making it easier to write and speak the target language.

10. If to talk about the vocabulary building method, conversation should be mentioned. Listening to, analyzing and most importantly taking part in conversations is a quick and valuable way to expand your vocabulary. The reason for this is the breadth of words used in conversation, as well as the immediate understanding of how and when they are used. This method allows you to follow the language being learned and easily understand the words being used and how the sentences are structured.

11. The last, but not least is home study using language learning software. It has become one of the most popular ways of learning a language in the modern day. There are a number of reasons for this, including study – time flexibility, a multi – faceted approach to learning and a far more affordable way to study than simply attending classes or hiring a tutor. The great thing about the newer language learning software platforms is that they utilize the best learning techniques and create an interactive package for the learner. For instance, a teacher can be present through video to motivate and engage as they would in the classroom; audio is provided for on the go learning via digital devices, and reading literature is provided to diversify the experience away from the computer.

To conclude, there are a number of language learning methods one can employ to speed up the process of learning a new language and enriching the vocabulary. The success of the method is based on a number of factors as age, personality, amount of time one has to spare. What works for one person doesn't work for another, and therefore it is worth considering each of the methods to determine the method best suited to personal circumstances.

