



Guided reading worksheet

Chapter 15

Issues

Complete the following statements to reflect your own opinion. You can change the words in italics if you wish.

1 Showing pictures is a *great way* to teach vocabulary because ...

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2 Using dialogues can *really help* when teaching vocabulary because ...

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3 Jazz chants *are good at* supporting young learners to learn words because ...

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4 Teaching words grouped into categories, for example, 'Hobbies' or 'Everyday verbs', *is useful* for students because ...

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5 Using competitive games in large classes to teach vocabulary *is great* because ...

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Discuss

If you have someone to discuss these issues with, find out what they think. If their statements are different from yours, talk about why this is. Does Chapter 15 support your arguments.

Check

1 The following notations are common in good learner dictionaries. What do they mean?

1 S2

2 W1

3 S

4 AWL

2 Name three different vocabulary games presented in Chapter 13 which help student vocabulary acquisition.

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- 3** Describe three techniques teachers can use to teach students the meaning of a specific word occurring in a text.

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Evaluate

- 4** Why can 'word maps' be a useful way of practising vocabulary for some students? What is the value of getting students to create their own word maps with words which they feel are useful?

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- 5** What are the main benefits to students of using a good learner dictionary?

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- 6** What is good advice to give to students who ask which information they should include when writing down new words in their notebooks?

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Action

- 7** Get your students to define an area of language, e.g. vocabulary connected to food or sport, which they would like to improve. Give them time to research the topic and create a poster of 20–50 words which presents the words in an interesting way, e.g. with visuals, perhaps as a story or a test. Encourage the students to include a variety of ways of understanding words, with translation, sentences containing the target word, lists of opposites, collocation information, etc.

When they have finished, ask the students to present their language posters to the class. The posters can be displayed on the wall and/or a photo can be taken and distributed on social media or to classmates.

- 8** Write down the two best game-style techniques which you regularly use when practising vocabulary. Share your ideas with a number of your teaching colleagues, and ask them to share their best two ideas. When you have collected six new and interesting ways to practise vocabulary, plan to use one technique per week with different classes (if possible).

1 1 S2 – the word is in the top 2,000 most frequent words in spoken English

2 W1 – the word is in the top 1,000 most frequent words in written English

3 S – American English

4 AWL – the word is part of an academic word list

2 (Suggested answers)

Pictionary, Call my bluff, Charades

3 (Suggested answers)

Ask the students to name the opposite of the target word; give the meaning and ask the students to find the relevant word; ask the students directly to explain the meaning of the word

4 (Suggested answers)

They can be an engaging way to get students to retrieve words they know.

Recategorisation of words under headers supports transition of words to long-term memory because of the intensive thinking process involved. Getting students to create their own word maps can be engaging because the students are put in control of their own learning, and they can choose words to learn which they feel are highly relevant for them.

5 (Suggested answers)

Good dictionaries give clear and comprehensive descriptions of the meanings of words, plus information on how they are used and pronounced. Essential information on collocation and even thesaurus information is also provided in some dictionaries.

6 (Suggested answers)

Depending on their own learning style, the students should select from some of the following techniques when noting down new words: include the definition of the word, write example sentences containing the word (some from dictionaries and some they have made up), note down the part of speech (verb, noun, adjective, etc.), collocation information should be noted and perhaps also words in the same family (e.g. *compete, competition, competitor*). A translation is also useful.