

## The Use of Flashcards in Teaching Vocabulary to Young Learners

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**Abstract:** This article discusses the use of maps and its impact on word memorization as one of the most effective ways to teach English to young learners. The main focus is given identifying the importance of using flash cards in teaching process.

**Keywords:** vocabulary, vocabulary teaching, flashcards, language.

English is an international language, so people need to learn this language in order to communicate with people all over the world. To communicate well, people need to master vocabulary, grammar, and correct pronunciation, which makes it easier for the listener to understand. According to Richards one of the important aspects in learning foreign language is vocabulary. English has been learned starting from elementary school to at university. They should learn English and be fluent in English for communication with many people all over the world who have different language easily and also it would be very useful when we go travelling around the world. Based on that case, most people around the countries set English as the one of compulsory subject should be learned at school.

In Uzbekistan, English is a foreign language. In learning foreign language, vocabulary as one of important things that should be considered even more important than grammar “ Without grammar very little can be conveyed, without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed” (Wilkins, 1972). The more people know the vocabulary the more effective communication will be. According to this term people should enrich their vocabulary as much as possible. Teachers are using many techniques to help the learners to develop their knowledge of vocabularies in quality and quantity. Words can be learnt verbally and visually; since verbally refers to the old-fashion way of learning vocabulary like reading and memorizing, most attention has been drawn on visual techniques like pictures, flashcard-based instruction, photographs, word pictures, and wordlists.

According to Cross, flashcard is a simple picture on a piece of card or paper, which is probably the most widely used visual aids in language teaching. It means that flashcard is one of media which can help the teacher to teaching English easily. Flash cards in teaching vocabulary are very simple visual aids and the teacher can make the students more active during the teaching learning process. Flashcard is one media that can attract student's attention and encourage them to learn and interested in English. As you know there are many types of learners within any one class. Gardner's research indicates that teachers should aim to appeal to all the different learner types at some point during the course. It is particularly important to appeal to visual learners, as a very high proportion of learners have this type of intelligence. Flash cards can be bright and colorful and make a real impact on visual learners. Flash cards are a very handy resource and can be useful at any stage of the lesson. Flashcards are a fun game for children to play in their spare time, which can be viewed by older students while traveling or at any free time.

Haycraft and Cross remarks that there are some advantages of using flashcards in language teaching.

1. Flashcards are motivating and eye-catching and they can be used for any level students.
2. Flashcards can be taken almost everywhere and studied when are has free moment.
3. Flashcards can be arranged to create logical grouping of the target words.

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4. Flashcards are cost effective. Flash cards can be one of the least expensive ways to study material. You don't need to buy a set of fancy illustrated cards. Instead, create flash cards with index cards that are 3-by-5 inches, which you can use with or without lines, depending upon the type of information you need.

5. Flashcards also can be used for practicing structure and word order or for a variety of games.

Therefore flashcards have many advantages; they are in motivating and stimulating the students. Teachers can use them at any time and in any situation when they want to teach. Flashcards can be used in many ways to introduce and practice vocabulary, as well as consolidate, recycle and extend children's language. Flashcards are a fun game for kids to play in their leisure time, and they may be reviewed by adult students while commuting or during any free time. Vocabulary flashcards can also be strategically placed throughout your home, which is especially important for English Language Learners as they can be used to define the article on which they are left. Furthermore, these are equally useful for teachers, since they can carry them around and use them to introduce new vocabulary to their students at any time. Assume you're planning a field trip; you'll be able to carry flashcards with you and utilize them to introduce new terminology regarding the objects you'll see. Flashcards assist children to develop their knowledge and capacity to understand, as well as their visual memory. Because children's attention spans are notoriously short, flashcards can make it easier for teachers to deliver little chunks of knowledge in a memorable and engaging manner. Children can build connections using flashcards. They can be used to recognize a familiar word with its equivalent in a foreign language when it comes to language learning. Similarly, they can be used to associate a term with its related meaning in Math or Science. When you show them both the photos and the words, their brains form connections that help them recognize the thing when they see it again

The followings are ways to use flashcards according to Soberón.

**Flashcard instructions:** Stick a set of flashcards on the walls around the classroom. Divide the class into groups. Then, give each group instructions in turn for example: Group 1: Walk to the elephant, group two: Jump to the lion and children respond.

**Repeat if it's true:** Stick a set of flashcards on the blackboard. Point out one of the flashcards and say the name, if you have said the correct name, children repeat it, if not they stay silent. This activity can be made more challenging if you say sentences for example; it is a red tomato.

**Guess the flashcard:** Stick a set of flashcards on the blackboard. Secretly choose one and encourage children to guess which it is asking you questions for example: Is it red? No, it is not. Is it blue? Yes, it is. Invite individual children to the front of the class in turn and get them to secretly choose a flashcard while the others guess in the same way.

**Flashcard groups:** Divide the class into groups of three or four. Give each group of flashcards and explain that this is the name of their group. Give instructions for example: apples: touch your nose! Carrots: put your hands on your head! Children listen and follow the instructions for their group.

**Odd one out:** Stick three or four flashcards in a row on the blackboard for example: butterfly, beetle, spider or apple, carrot, pizza, tomato. Children look and identify the odd one out and say why, for example: *spider*, it has got eight legs and *pizza*, it is not a plant. Repeat the procedure several.

Flashcards are a useful technique of stimulating the child as he or she is learning new topics. Since they are so effective, the flashcard technique has become popular within schools nationwide as well as internationally. In the process, flashcards can convert the learning process into an engaging and enjoyable activity. Moreover, involving games in the application of flashcards makes the children feel relax and create an interesting atmosphere. As a result, the children can memorize the presented vocabulary easily by focusing their attention in the lesson. The implementation of the flashcards gives valuable contribution towards learners' vocabulary mastery. Most of the young learners are interested it when they are learning English by using flashcards. They state that flashcards can motivate them because the pictures are interesting and the language in use is easy to understand.



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