



## Learning English "Ways to Improve University Students' Vocabulary

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### Abstract

*This article discusses about ways to improve University Students' Vocabulary. The importance of students' vocabulary skills and understanding to support student skills in aspects of the English language. The aim of writing this article is to develop language skills both orally and in writing. The skills referred to are how we listen, speak, read, understand and write. Because the four skills are a unity that is bound and one with each other and we cannot separate them but can be distinguished.*

## Introduction

Vocabulary learning is the foundation for students' level of understanding (Yang et al., 2021). Therefore, learning vocabulary in an appropriate manner leads to the general learning success of students (Gupta 2019). There are many obstacles that students experience in knowing and understanding vocabulary, as well as several factors that make it difficult to improve and understand the meaning of a vocabulary. The rare use of the vocabulary they know, lack of initiative or enthusiasm in learning, are some of the factors for students' lack of vocabulary skills, but it can be eliminated by adopting some new habits such as changing learning patterns. In learning English, vocabulary is the most important thing that will increase one's confidence in using English (Kacatl & Klímová, 2019; Pratiwi & Ayu, 2020).

Basically, improving vocabulary will greatly support students in all aspects of other skills in English such as speaking, writing and listening skills (Syafiq et al., 2021). Applying learning habits or patterns such as taking vocabulary notes and looking for good methods to facilitate learning vocabulary are some of the solutions (Chen et al., 2019) that can be applied to students who experience problems such as a lack of initiative or enthusiasm in learning, so that students are able to acquire good vocabulary skills both at the same time restore their confidence in language (Klimova & Polakova, 2020).

Language is a communication tool in human life which plays an important role in improving the quality of all aspects of social life. Therefore, vocabulary should not be considered as less important things to learn because vocabulary itself has important points in learning it such as increasing students' self-confidence and ability to compete (Dildora et al., 2019). The importance of students' vocabulary skills and understanding to support student skills in aspects of the English language.

## Vocabulary

Vocabulary is considered to be a significant part of a language, especially in the process of learning a foreign language because the more vocabulary one knows the more capacities s/he has for uttering the phrases, clauses and sentences. Improving student skills, one of which is vocabulary, which is an important point in learning English. Vocabulary (vocabulary) has a very essential role in mastering foreign languages, especially English. Vocabulary can be interpreted as a collection of words understood by someone (Herlina, 2015). According to Zhao & Lornkla (2019) vocabulary is defined as "the entire stock of words belonging to a branch of knowledge or known by an individual".

That we want to Learn English language, vocabulary is a key in the process language teaching and learning. Vocabulary learning is the cornerstone of students' level of comprehension. Therefore, learning vocabulary in a suitable way leads to students' learning success in general. Vocabulary becomes very important because it is the main facility in the preparation of sentences in order to be able to speak fluently, and only in terms of speaking but also in understanding a text or whatever it is that is English. Vocabulary is very essential for success to comprehend the language well, speak better, or composed a good writing; it is expected that learners have to increase their vocabulary by around 1000 words a year (Bergmann, 2005).

In addition, by mastering vocabulary we will also be easier in mastering other abilities such as, reading, listening, speaking as well as writing. By mastering vocabulary, it will also have an effect on our confidence which is also increasing and courageous in using English to the people around so that it becomes a habit and will further improve our ability to speak. One last important thing in improving vocabulary, which is that gradually we will also begin to understand and master grammar by itself, because vocabulary is the smallest unit in English that support skills in learning English.

A vocabulary is not simply a collection of words we memorize and know their meaning but also the learning process in arranging these words (Oxford & Scarcella, 1994; Nation & Meara, 2010; Horst 2005). Without mastering adequate vocabulary, students not only have difficulty communicating, but even cannot communicate at all. In addition, without understanding vocabulary, grammar, students will have problems accessing information and operating their electronic devices.

The purpose of writing the paper "Ways to Improving Student Vocabulary" is to developed language skills both orally and in writing. The skills referred to are how we listen, speak, read, understand and write. Because the four skills are a unity that is bound and one with each other and we cannot separate them but can be distinguished. A person's English proficiency is declared successful when he is able to speak and understand English well, convey ideas and opinions using English as well as good grammar as well as being able to write texts properly and correctly (Cowan, 2008; Oscarson, 2009). This shows that students learning English are essentially learning to use them in communicating both oral and written actively and effectively (Khayati & Hadi, 2021; Yunus & Salehi, 2012; Ellery, 2008). By improving students' skills in vocabulary, this is also to increase self-confidence and courage in speaking English and always

implement it in everyday life both to local and foreign people. So that it is able to make it easier for us to receive information and be able to do tasks and other things that blend in English.

There are several problems and factors why students experience difficulties in vocabulary, namely Difficulty understanding difficult-level vocabulary, The emergence of a sense of males in the self to memorize and understand vocabulary, rarely apply vocabulary (using English) in everyday life (Akmal et al., 2020). From some of the problem ideas and factors above, it can be explained that in understanding vocabulary there are 4 ways, namely; (1) Form is studying, listening and repeating, listening for specific phonological information (consonants, vowel sounds, syllable sources, stress patterns), looking at or observing the written for shape, first and last letters, letters clusters, spelling, noticing grammatical information, and copying and organizing; (2) Pronunciation is pronunciation or pronunciation in English. (3) Word meaning as we know, word meaning is learning the meaning of vocabulary and how it relates to material concepts and other vocabulary.

Usage is learning how to use vocabulary (vocabulary) itself both based on context and others (Azar 2007; Yunus & Salehi, 2012). Of the several factors that make students difficult in terms of vocabulary such as feeling lazy, it can be eliminated by applying some new habits such as making a not about vocabulary, for example memorizing 20 vocabulary every day and starting to apply it in conversation and writing (Kazhan et al., 2020; Ahmed 2019; Masoumi-Moghaddam 2018). Gradually, the feeling of males in ourselves will be reduced by applying some new habits in everyday life that will continue to support our ability to speak English (Pratiwi & Ayu, 2020). One of the biggest problems of other students is that it is difficult to understand new or high-level words due to the fact that they rarely use or learn this vocabulary (Wulandary et al., 2022). One solution that is often given by teachers is to look for the meaning of the word and start using it frequently in conversation and writing (Dehghanzadeh et al., 2021). Apart from memorizing and learning the meaning, knowing the correct pronunciation of a word is also very important. Can be started by listening to songs or listening to news channels abroad.

## **Conclusion**

Based on the discussion and decomposition of material on how to make up and add to the understanding of students to city vocabulary, it can be concluded that vocabulary learning is the basis of the most basic level of student understanding. Therefore, learning vocabulary by means of the appropriate method causes student learning success in general. Vocabulary is very important because it is the main facility in compiling sentences to be able to speak smoothly, and not only in terms of speaking but also in understanding text such as words per word, sentence per sentence and paragraph in English. Showing how vocabulary plays an important role in the process of learning English because it is a key vocabulary is one of the keys in English. This paper has the purpose of being able to support the ability of students and people who learn English both in speaking, listening and in terms of writing. Some problems that often appear can be overcome by using and implementing ways and methods in terms of understanding vocabulary in English so that it becomes a daily habit.

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