



DIFFICULTIES IN LEARNING NEW VOCABULARY AND COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIES TO OVERCOME THEM

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ABSTRACT *Learning new words is an important part of mastering English. However, many learners face different difficulties in this process. This article discusses common problems such as pronunciation challenges, forgetting words quickly, and confusion with similar words. It also presents possible solutions, including using context, repetition techniques, and digital tools. Understanding these challenges and strategies can help learners improve their vocabulary more effectively.*

Key words: *vocabulary learning, forgetting words, contextual learning, similar words confusion, idioms and phrasal verbs, spaced repetition, language learning technology, memory techniques.*

Today, the English language is an essential tool for global communication, education, and career development. One of the key factors for successfully mastering a language is having a rich and active vocabulary. However, learning new words remains one of the biggest and most persistent challenges for learners. In this article, we analyze the main obstacles encountered when learning new vocabulary and explore modern, scientifically based methods that help overcome these difficulties.

I. Analysis of the Main Difficulties

Difficulties in learning new vocabulary can be divided into three major groups: cognitive (memory-related), methodological (learning-method-related), and linguistic (language-specific).

1. Cognitive Problem: Forgetting Words .Description: Learners memorize a word but cannot recall it after a few days. This is related to the brain's tendency to dismiss new, unrepeated information as "unnecessary," preventing it from moving

from short-term to long-term memory. Main Cause: Lack of an effective repetition system. Traditionally memorizing word lists does not solve this problem.

2. Methodological Problem: Lack of Context Description: A learner memorizes a word and its translation but cannot use it correctly in real sentences or conversations. They don't know how the word functions, which prepositions it takes, or which words it collocates with. Main Cause: Learning words as isolated units. Since communication is the main function of language, failing to understand how a word is used turns it into "inactive vocabulary."

3. Linguistic Problem: Inconsistency Between Pronunciation and Spelling

Description: English is not a phonetic language. Differences between spelling and pronunciation (such as read/reed, though/through/thought) confuse learners and make memorization difficult.

Main Cause: Trying to apply the "read as written" habit (common in Uzbek and other phonetic languages) to English.

II. Comprehensive Strategies to Overcome These Difficulties

To effectively master new vocabulary, three key principles should be incorporated into the learning process: prioritization, deep understanding, and consistent reinforcement.

1. Addressing Cognitive Difficulties: Spaced Repetition System (SRS) A modern, scientifically proven approach that solves the problem of forgetting. Implementation: Words are repeated according to a special algorithm until fully learned. If a word is forgotten, the interval becomes shorter; if remembered, the interval increases (e.g., 1 day, 3 days, 7 days, 2 weeks). Tools: Apps like Anki and Quizlet are based on SRS principles and help store vocabulary in long-term memory.

2. Addressing Methodological Difficulties: Strengthening Context and Associations Turning words from "dead information" into active communication tools. Full Learning Approach: Record not only the word and its translation but also its synonyms, antonyms, collocations, and example sentences. Mnemonics: Link the

word to a visual image, funny story, or similar-sounding word to make it easier to remember.

Example: Linking poverty to pauper or another memorable association.

3. Addressing Linguistic Difficulties: Language Immersion Approach

Reducing inconsistencies between pronunciation and spelling by creating a “language environment.” Active Listening: Listen to a word’s pronunciation before reading it and repeat it aloud. Most modern dictionaries include audio pronunciation. Learning Word Families: Study all forms of a word together—noun, verb, adjective, adverb.

Example: develop (verb), development (noun), developing (adjective).

This expands vocabulary and clarifies the word’s functions in speech.

Learning new vocabulary is one of the biggest challenges in English learning, but it is not an insurmountable one. Understanding that the real obstacle is not the number of words but ineffective memorization methods is the first step toward success. Treat vocabulary learning not as a boring obligation but as an engaging intellectual game. By applying modern strategies such as consistency, proper repetition (SRS), and learning words in context, you can significantly accelerate and strengthen your language-learning progress.

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