

Lesson Plan

Episode 01



*Teach Vocabulary
with a Picture Dictionary*

Two tips for practicing vocabulary in the classroom

1. Find your lexical partner

Divide the class into two groups. Group 1 receives cards with definitions of words they have already seen in class. From the definition, they must figure out the word or expression. Group 2 receives cards with one word or expression which match the cards held by Group 1.

Students must create a sentence using this word or expression.

After giving students time to work alone, allow them to mingle to find their partner from the other group –the definition and lexical item from group 1 cards much match the lexical item and example sentence card from group 2.

You can make it a competition. The first correct pair to find each other wins.

2. Nonsense dictation

Dictate a short paragraph (2 to 3 lines for beginners) to students. Focusing on one part of speech only, replace the focus words with nonsense words. After students have completed the dictation, let them work in pairs to figure out the correct words to replace the nonsense words. They must also identify the part of speech.

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Student vocabulary notebooks

While students' vocabulary notes can include pictures, teachers can encourage their students to go a step further in order to develop a deeper understanding of vocabulary items and move from passive knowledge to active use. In order to make this transition, a vocabulary notebook can include **an example sentence** (taken from a dictionary or a text); **an example sentence created by the student**; **pronunciation** (ideally using phonemic script, but at least showing the number of syllables and the stressed syllable); **the form of the word** (is it a noun, a verb, an adjective).

Finally, student example sentences should: carry meaning, be meaningful to the student, be clear and be grammatically correct.

Encouraging your students to create complete vocabulary entries such as the example below will help them develop active vocabulary to communicate better.

● ← *stressed syllable*
Hand.bag ← *number of syllables*

A small bag in which a woman carries money and personal things
(dictionary definition)

“Her handbag is small, so she only carries her money and her keys in it.”
(example sentence)

“My handbag is a large, blue one which I got as a gift. I can carry everything in it – my money, my key, my makeup and my documents.”
(student's example sentence)