

Is it easy to learn English?

Vocabulary is an important and troublesome issue in teaching English as a foreign language. One way to teach vocabulary is to relate new words to personal experiences. Words are labels for concepts. Concepts are stored mental patterns that are derived from experiences. Usually words with multiple meanings are confusing to English language learners. Every subject employs its own vocabulary with special meaning. Therefore, words and concepts used in special ways must be explained. For example company used in economic terms is very different from company meaning guests- friends. This example dramatizes how experience is related to interpretation.

English language teachers can generate interest in their advanced students and show them the importance of contextualization by exploring the meaning of the following sentences:

1. The bandage was wound around the wound.
2. The farm was used to produce

produce.

3. The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
4. We must polish the Polish furniture.
5. He could lead if he would get the lead out.
6. The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
7. Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
8. When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
9. I did not object to the object.
10. The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
11. They were too close to the door to close it.
12. The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
13. Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.
14. I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
15. How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?

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