



VB

VOCABOOSTER

A Vocabulary Self-Learning Kit

Pick up

Pinpoint

Practice

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Abstract

Learning vocabulary is one of the most challenging aspects of language learning. Consequently, vocabulary learning has gained researchers' interest over the last two decades. Moreover, it was found that learners' vocabulary significantly affects their overall language learning and development (Al-Khresheh & Al-Ruwaili, 2020). Still, learning vocabulary is repetitive and takes time because the brain does not keep anything someone learns during the day as long-term memory. Thus, most scholars agree that learners need to review a word repeatedly before a word can be considered 'acquired.' Nation (2001) argued that mastering a new word involves abilities such as form recognition, dictionary meaning, specific grammatical properties, word functions (frequency and appropriateness), and the ability to use the word appropriately in certain contexts. However, one way to improve learners' understanding of vocabulary is through understanding and implementing Vocabulary Learning Strategies (VLS). According to Schmitt (1997), VLS play a crucial role in language learning due to their contribution in helping learners develop independent language competence and self-development. Thus, the researchers constructed this toolkit, named 'VocaBooster: A Vocabulary Self-Learning Kit (VSLK), to familiarize language learners in general, especially ESL and EFL learners, with VLS, identify their vocabulary strategies, and support them with self-learning resources to boost and increase their vocabulary gains and retention. VocaBooster also provides learners with plenty of vocabulary-learning resources and strategies that may boost their vocabulary and language learning without any external support, especially during pandemics such as COVID-19. This kit consists of three main parts; the theoretical part, which is an introduction to VLS and Schmitt's theory of vocabulary learning, the Practical part, a questionnaire to identify learners' favorable learning strategy, and the supportive part, which provides learners with extra vocabulary learning resources to increase their vocabulary learning based on their vocabulary learning strategy/strategies. This kit is available as a paper hard copy, an electronic pdf copy, and an online interactive version. Vocab Booster helps learners obtain vocabulary in a self-directed way without external help due to its user-friendliness and the vocabulary cards and websites specifically tailored for each strategy. This kit may also support teachers, institutes, and curricular designers to facilitate vocabulary learning autonomously. Accordingly, this toolkit has the potential to help bring positive change for the whole society and encourage further innovation in this vein.

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