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# Teaching Vocabulary

—To learn vocabulary students need to know:

1. The meaning of the word
2. Part of speech (noun, verb adjective, etc.)
3. Use-how and when it is appropriate to use
4. Interaction-how it interacts and affects other words
5. Spelling-how it is written
6. Pronunciation-how it is spoken

## Ways to teach vocabulary with the Engage-Study-Activate method

ESA is a method of sequencing your lessons and it has three stages (engage, study, activate). The engage stage gains the learner's attention, the study stage is where the learner practices and produces the target language, and the activate stage is where the learner does communication based activities. These stages can be moved around and repeated to form different combinations. This is different from the PPP (plan, prepare, produce) method because in ESA the stages can be moved and repeated more than once.

### Engage

Think of the engage stage as a warm up, with a clear link to the study stage, but without teacher or correction. The following methods can all be used to help engage the students and to elicit/explain meaning (remember, elicit means to ask the students before you explain).

1. Realia (objects and materials from everyday life)
2. Mime and action
3. Pictures/video clips
4. Stories and anecdotes
5. Contrast
6. Discussion
7. Discovery

### Study

The study stage usually includes controlled practice and activities, focusing on accuracy. Study activities can include:

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1. Gap-fill exercises
2. Word searches
3. Crosswords
4. Matching exercises
5. Example sentences
6. Pronunciation exercises, such as drilling
7. Study from texts and dialogues

## Activate

The activate stage gives learners the opportunity to use language more freely, focusing on fluency. of a vocabulary lesson may include such activities as:

1. Class, small group, or pair discussion
2. Role-play
3. Simulation
4. Story building
5. Material production tasks (making a poster, advertisement , pamphlet, etc.)
6. Debates

## Common ESA sequences

Here are some common ways to use ESA, however you can organize them based on the needs of the learners and the type of activity.

### Straight Arrow

- The sequence goes: Engage-Study-Activate

### Boomerang

- The sequence goes: Engage-Study-Activate 1- Study- Activate 2
- This sequence gives students the opportunity to improve their accuracy with a second activate activity

### Patchwork

- The sequence goes: Engage-Activate-Study-Activate-Study-Engage
- This sequence is very interactive and students are given multiple times to engage with the material
- This sequence gives teachers the opportunity to respond to the students' needs