

## **THE ROLE OF FLASHCARDS IN PRIMARY ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING FOR DEVELOPING LEXICAL COMPETENCE**

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Setting the research problem and establishing its connection with the important or practical tasks. The knowledge of foreign languages is associated with the knowledge of the vocabulary units establishing the basics for fluent communication. In this context vocabulary competence is the most essential of language competences thus being an important part of any school curriculum and syllabus. Many of the Ukrainian and foreign methodologists accentuate the importance of using flashcards for successful vocabulary work. Flash cards are given great emphasis in the works of the British methodologist J. Harmer: “The teacher can ensure that the students understand the meaning of a word by showing pictures (photographs, cards etc.)” [3, p.55]. Ukrainian methodologists such as Nikolayeva S. [1], Panova L, Andriyko I., Tezikova S. [2] and others also name flash cards among the most effective ways of memorising the words and using them in the meaningful context.

According to the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English a flash card is ‘a card with a word or picture on it used in teaching’ [4, p.608]. Flashcards may also contain ‘a small amount of information, held up for pupils to see, as an aid to learning’ [5, p.528]. Flashcards may be a powerful means in primary EFL teaching. The aim of this research is to investigate the role of flashcards for primary English language teaching, analyze online resources available for teachers and learners and suggest some techniques for using flashcards for developing communicative skills of the young learners.

The main points of the research and justification of the results. Flash cards are an important way of helping young learners to understand the meaning of the vocabulary units more clearly. Whether we are teaching a new structure, reviewing

an old one, or simply testing a student's level, flash cards can be a very affective tool in the classroom.

Advantages of using Images and Flash cards include lively, authentic and stimulating classroom activities as well as ready-made consolidation activities. Besides, they are quick and easy to use, providing practice in speaking, writing, listening and learning new vocabulary items. Flashcards can be used to supplement English Course of any level.

Flash cards are traditionally associated with teaching the youngest but they can be a very effective tool in teaching a language in the high school. There are countless ways to take advantage of flashcards in the class and make lessons more effective. Flash cards help translate the meaning of words and recycle grammar structures. They add color to a lesson, and help keep learners interested. Flash cards give context to the structures being taught and motivate students to speak and write.

Possible steps of working with flash cards may include the following:

1. Learning new lexical units. Presentation. Pronunciation drills. Defining the meaning.
2. Context learning. Making up sentences and describing situations to which the above-mentioned phenomena can be applied. Work with definitions, gap filling, selecting synonyms and antonyms, idioms etc [6].
3. Recycling and communicative activities. Flash cards besides learning vocabulary items can also be used for making up and retelling stories, doing memory tests, playing games, creating information gaps, and making review sheets and tests.
4. Testing.

Some examples of activities with flashcards for primary school lessons of English may be the following.

1. Guess the word. Put pictures on any topic face down in a pile at the front of the classroom. Ask the learners to take pictures in turns and say the word.
2. Q&A (Question and Answer). Divide the students into pairs. Tell the pairs that they should take one/ two pictures at a time from the pile, look at it and act out a short conversation based on what it shows. E.g.

- What is it? It's a...

- What can you do in your free time? I can play chess.

3. Find your partner. Give flashcards to the first half of the class and the words to the second. Ask them to stand up, move around the class and find their partner.

Nowadays with the introduction of ICT (information and communication technologies) into teaching and learning English new ways of using flash cards open before students and teachers. First of all, there are numerous sites that offer ready-made flash cards and even lesson plans. E. g. [esllibrary.com](http://esllibrary.com) [6] or [learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org](http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org) [7] and many others. At Learnenglishkids presented by the educational organization British Council for EFL (English as a foreign language) teaching and learning we can find about a thousand flashcards on 43 topics such as human body, holidays, daily routine, birds, animals, transport, free time, hobbies and all the other topics listed in the English syllabus for primary school.

Flash cards appear to be a very effective tool in preparing various kinds of Power Point Presentations (E.g. Hobbies, daily routines etc.) in order not to waste much time and money on printing out the images.

According to the researchers effective vocabulary presentation techniques using flashcards should not be too long, include enough and relevant examples, include clear/interesting visuals and clear instructions [2, p.153]. Also work with flashcards at primary school should link to previously-learnt structures, be involving, meaningful, amusing, memorable and interesting, hold attention, include comments and explanations and use or link to learner's present knowledge.

Conclusions and perspectives of further research. To sum up, it should be said that students of the pedagogical institutions – intending teachers of English should actively use flashcards both as printed images and Power Point presentations during their trial lessons and long-term school practice in order to activate and recycle vocabulary units as well as help the learners remember and use them in communication. It will help the teacher to make the lessons brighter, more memorable and achieve higher learning outcomes. It will also make the lesson more learner-centered making the learner an active partner of the teaching and learning process. Online flashcards are, on the one hand, easy and quick to use. On the other

hand, they offer a lot of opportunities for the teacher to make up various flashcard games and activities.

References:

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