

## DEVELOPING VOCABULARY THROUGH INTERACTIVE READING METHODS

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**Abstract:** This article explores the importance of interactive reading methods in the modern educational process and their impact on vocabulary development. It emphasizes how active learning techniques such as clustering, brainstorming, question-and-answer sessions, synonym/antonym identification, and role-playing significantly enhance students' verbal activity and expand their vocabulary. The paper also discusses the practical application of these methods and evaluates their effectiveness.

**Keywords:** interactive methods, vocabulary, student engagement, educational process, lexical resources, information exchange

### Introduction

Today's educational reforms require modern approaches to both the content and form of teaching. Particularly in language instruction, active learning strategies—especially interactive reading methods—are widely used. These methods foster active learner participation, independent thinking, and, most importantly, contribute to vocabulary development.

Vocabulary is a key indicator of a person's speech culture and cognitive ability. It is essential not only in language learning but in mastering other subjects as well. A student with a rich vocabulary can express their thoughts freely, clearly, and fluently. Therefore, effectively using interactive methods to enrich vocabulary plays a vital role in developing students' language competencies.

Interactive methods are instructional approaches based on two-way communication between teacher and student. They actively involve learners in the educational process, enabling the use, acquisition, and practical application of vocabulary. This article analyzes the role and significance of interactive reading methods in developing vocabulary and presents examples of their implementation.

Enriching vocabulary during language learning is directly connected to the intellectual development of the learner. A student with limited vocabulary may struggle to communicate and express their thoughts accurately. Therefore, it is crucial to select appropriate methods and apply them effectively.

Interactive reading methods are considered among the most effective tools in this field. They provide students not only with new knowledge but also the opportunity to apply previously learned vocabulary in various logical and real-life contexts.

#### **Cluster method**

The clustering method involves grouping words related to a central topic through association. For example, under the topic "nature," related words such as mountain, river, tree, flower, and bird may be listed. This method helps students categorize, synthesize, and retain vocabulary by theme, thereby improving memory and lexical range.

#### **Brainstorming**

This technique enhances students' ability to think quickly and recall words. A topic-related question is asked, and students must respond with as many words or ideas as possible within a short time. For example, in response to the word "reading," students might say book, lesson, student, teacher, knowledge, pen, notebook, etc. This method rapidly and effectively boosts vocabulary.

#### **Finding synonyms and antonyms**

Students are given a word and asked to find its synonyms and antonyms. For instance:

Great – synonyms: grand, big; antonyms: small, humble.

This method deepens students' understanding of word meanings and improves their ability to distinguish between similar and opposite terms.

#### **Role-Playing**

In interactive reading, students take on different social roles to practice vocabulary in context. For instance, in a role-play about shopping, students act as a shopkeeper or customer, engaging in realistic dialogue using appropriate expressions. This method not only expands vocabulary but also enhances speech culture.

#### **Question-answer and discussion techniques**

In the question-answer technique, the teacher asks vocabulary-based questions, encouraging students to respond and participate actively. During group discussions, students express their views and knowledge on specific topics, reinforcing vocabulary through practical use and collaborative learning.

#### **Text analysis and creative writing**

Text analysis and creative writing are essential components of interactive learning, serving as effective tools for vocabulary development. These activities teach students to analyze texts, understand meanings, and express personal opinions, helping them internalize new vocabulary and use it freely.

Text analysis process:

Students are provided with a short or medium-length text for analysis based on the following:

- Polysemous words
- Expressions and idioms
- Synonyms and antonyms
- Figurative language
- Author's style
- Emotionally charged and descriptive language

This process not only broadens vocabulary but also strengthens reading and critical thinking skills. For instance, while analyzing literary or journalistic texts, students learn to understand word meanings, their functions in the text, and their role in creating imagery.

Creative writing exercises

Creative writing allows students to express themselves freely and imaginatively, reinforcing vocabulary in meaningful contexts. Examples include:

- Completing a text: Students are given the beginning of a story or essay and asked to write a suitable ending.
- Writing essays on open topics: Topics such as "My Dream Future" or "If I Were a World Traveler" allow students to practice vocabulary usage.
- Story-building from given words: Using 5–7 provided words, students write short stories that make logical and meaningful use of each word.

• Writing based on pictures: Students describe scenes, actions, settings, or people in a picture, creating a narrative or descriptive text.

Advantages of these methods:

- Develop active vocabulary
- Allow real-life application of new words
- Encourage creativity and independent thinking
- Improve aesthetic learning and speech culture
- Build coherent, fluent, and expressive communication skills

In summary, text analysis and creative writing are among the most effective and creativity-driven interactive methods for vocabulary development. These approaches not only support language learning but also help learners build confidence in writing and speaking.

### **Conclusion**

To conclude, vocabulary development in modern education is essential not only in language instruction but also for general knowledge, thinking skills, and personal growth. Unlike traditional methods, interactive reading strategies increase student engagement, foster independent learning, and encourage the practical use of vocabulary.

Interactive methods are not merely tools for making lessons more engaging—they offer deeper understanding, stronger language sensitivity, and accurate word usage in speech. The methods discussed in this paper—clustering, brainstorming, synonym/antonym identification, role-playing, Q&A, and creative writing—actively promote vocabulary growth and enrich learners' communication.

Text analysis and creative writing do more than expand vocabulary—they help students become analytical, creative, and expressive individuals capable of formulating their own ideas clearly. These methods foster independent, literate, and well-rounded learners.

Furthermore, the systematic use of these methods in schools not only enhances vocabulary but also helps develop key competencies such as creativity, communication, and verbal fluency. Considering that the purpose of education is to nurture independent, expressive, and critical thinkers, the use of interactive methods is both effective and necessary.

In conclusion, interactive reading methods are not just tools for vocabulary enhancement, but powerful pedagogical instruments that play a central role in personal development. Their purposeful and widespread application can help educate a knowledgeable, active, and competent generation.

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