



THE VOCABULARY RECYCLING RULE

Repeated encounters matter. Use it, revisit it, remember it.



THE IDEA

Learning a new word once is not enough.

EAL learners need many meaningful encounters over time to remember, use and apply vocabulary with confidence.

See it.

Say it.

Use it.

Review it.

Own it.



IN THE CLASSROOM

- Plan for repeated exposure across lessons and weeks.
- Use words in different contexts and tasks.
- Encourage speaking, writing and discussion.
- Make vocabulary visible and accessible.
- Review and recycle regularly.
- Celebrate when students use new words independently.

THE 4 STEPS

1



INTRODUCE WITH PURPOSE

Introduce new words meaningfully.

- Select high-value, topic-relevant words.
- Teach the meaning, pronunciation and form.
- Provide examples, visuals and non-examples.
- Connect to what students already know.

Example: The word "impact" means a strong effect or influence. It can be positive or negative. Not everything that is big is an impact.

2



ENCOUNTER IN DIFFERENT WAYS

Bring the words back in varied contexts.

- Use the words in reading, listening and speaking.
- Highlight them in texts and lessons.
- Include in visuals, examples, discussions and tasks.
- Model the words in your own language.

Example: Read a text. Highlight "impact". Discuss its meaning. Watch a video. Use it in a debate. Write a summary. Draw a cause-effect diagram.

3



PRACTISE AND APPLY

Give students chances to use the words.

- Use the words in speaking and writing tasks.
- Encourage accurate and appropriate use.
- Provide sentence starters and frames.
- Give feedback on use, not just meaning.

*Example starters: "The impact of ... was ..."
"This had a positive/negative impact because ..."
"In my opinion, the biggest impact is ..."*

4



REVIEW, RECYCLE AND RETAIN

Revisit regularly to build long-term memory.

- Recycle words across weeks and topics.
- Use retrieval activities and games.
- Add new words to word walls and glossaries.
- Celebrate growth in vocabulary use.

Try: Quick recalls, word games, quizzes, exit tickets, personal dictionaries, "word of the week" challenges.



WHY IT WORKS

Repetition builds memory.
Multiple contexts build depth.
Confidence grows when words become part of a learner's language.



EAL UPGRADE

- Build word families and collocations.
- Use semantic maps to connect ideas.
- Teach prefixes, suffixes and word parts.



TRY IT TOMORROW

- Pick 5 key words from your lesson.
- Plan how students will see, use and review them all week.
- Check in and celebrate their use.



TEACHER LANGUAGE

"Let's use this word in a new sentence."
"Where have you seen this word before?"
"Can you use that word to explain your idea?"

DUNCAN ROSE

EAL • LANGUAGE • LEARNING