WAYS TO IMPROVE ONE’S ENGLISH VOCABULARY

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Vocabulary is commonly defined as a familiar word. Although there may be degrees and depths to one's familiarity with a word, it is essential nonetheless to widen one's vocabulary, especially one's vocabulary of his or her second language (Randall, n.d.). Filipinos are well oriented with the English language. It is a medium used in subjects in pre-school. Their exposure to the language is as early as their learning to count one, two, and three. It makes Filipinos more familiar with the language than most Asians. However, as time goes by, students tend to settle on their vernacular language and not widen their second language.

Students are becoming more exposed to the Filipino language than English that learning and speaking English are left behind through the years. Their vocabulary in the language remains the same as well. As one gets older, the exposure to foreign words or words not in one's vocabulary is inevitable. When one is left behind with the vocabulary not learned in high school, misunderstanding and misinterpretation arise. To avoid conflicts, a person has to develop his or her vocabulary. Here are some ways to improve one's vocabulary.

Reading selections will let students encounter unfamiliar words. Once a student meets an unknown word, the student can consult a dictionary and note that word. He or she can also use that word in his or her sentence and note the word's synonyms and antonyms. There are many selections written by Filipino writers that students can relate to at the same time conquer new words in English. Students can also try to learn a new word each day. They can look for a word in the dictionary that they can call "The Word of the Day." The teacher can also add this short activity in his or her everyday lesson. The
teacher can also use spelling activities. This way, the students learn the pronunciation of a word and its definition, and its use in a sentence. On the other hand, if a dictionary is not available, the student can use context clues and other techniques to develop the meaning of a word. Discovering how words are formed can also help in building vocabulary. Words came from Latin or Greek roots. Once the student is familiar with these roots, they can quickly identify the meaning of a word.

A student can also use word games. In word games, the student not only meets new words but also he or she enjoys it. The teacher can use games in their formative activities. Mobile applications, which are word games like 4 Pix, 1 Word; The Hangman; and Word cookies, are just some of the mobile games available on cellphones. Another way of improving English vocabulary is by watching movies with the English language. One can repeat the dialogues, or he or she can jot down difficult words encountered in the film and discovering its meaning. Repeating the characters' conversations introduces the student to the pronunciation of the story, and he or she can learn stress, intonation, and the like. The student can also speak with English speakers to be familiar with some words. English teachers and instructors can be a great help in this technique.

The English language is part of the life of Filipino students. That is why a student must never stop learning new words. There are many ways that a student can learn new words and improve his or her vocabulary, but only if one is willing and open to learning.

A word a day keeps ignorance away.

References: