The Incredible Importance of Vocabulary in Learning a Second Language

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THANKS
“There is not much value in being able to produce grammatical sentences if one has not got the vocabulary that is needed to convey what one wishes to say …

While without grammar very little can be conveyed, without vocabulary NOTHING can be conveyed.” (pp. 110-111)

Vocabulary is NOT just individual words.
What is vocabulary in L2?

- **WORD:** dozen
- **COLLOCATION:** a dozen (+ eggs / + doughnuts / + roses)
- **SHORT PHRASE:** all of a sudden
- **MULTI-WORD UNITS:** one of the most
- **IDIOM:** let the cat out of the bag
- **PHRASAL VERB:** run out of (+ time / + money)
“Students typically need to know words measured in thousands, not hundreds, but receive language instruction measured in months, not years.” (p. 345)

Why is **vocabulary** so important?

1. **Students ask for vocabulary help**
   (“How do you say *gracias* or شكرا in English?”)

+ Exit surveys of students
Why is vocabulary so important?

1. Students ask for vocabulary help ("How do you say شكرا in English?")

2. WE do too few words + too little practice
   
   + teachers
   + courses
   + textbooks
Why is vocabulary so important?

1. Students ask for vocabulary help ("How do you say شكرا in English?")

2. We do too few words, too little practice

3. my own language study of French, Spanish, Arabic, Malay, Japanese, German

NO WORDS = NO COMMUNICATION
YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UkSHFsRYKZQ
FREE GRAMMAR. PRACTICE for teachers (with Dr. Folse):

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBt84TeX80XSqSaWh2EAZ1HZRsEpnv4mE

Questions?

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