

Best Practice: Department of English

1. Title: WORD OF THE DAY

2. Objectives:

The overall objectives of the course are

1. To enable the learner to communicate effectively and appropriately in real life situation
2. To use English effectively for study purpose across the curriculum
3. To revise and reinforce structure already learnt.

3. Context:

When attempting to decipher the meaning of a new word, it is often useful to look at what comes before and after that word. The surrounding words can give readers helpful context clues about the meaning and structure of the new word, as well as how it is used.

4. **The Practice:** Talking about the importance of vocabulary, the linguist David Wilkins argued that: “without grammar little can be conveyed, without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed.” Indeed, people need to use words in order to express themselves in any language. Most learners, too, acknowledge the importance of vocabulary acquisition. Nowadays, there is more freedom in choosing the methods to be used during English classes. The English syllabus is organized around both vocabulary and grammar structures. Since there is a certain number of classes allotted for each item in the syllabus, teachers usually have the necessary time to insist on teaching and practising vocabulary. Vocabulary is no longer treated as an add-on and teachers become more aware of the importance of vocabulary and attention is paid to the grammar of words, to collocations and to word frequency.

5. Evidence of Success:

- 1. It Improves Reading Comprehension:** Research has shown that students need to understand **98%** of the words they read to understand what they are reading. Improving vocabulary skills will improve their understanding of novels and textbooks.
- 2. It's important to Language Development:** Students who develop a rich vocabulary tend to be deeper thinkers, express themselves better and read more. Improving language and literacy skills early in life will help them be more successful academically and professionally.
- 3. Communicating Ideas.** Successful communication or “saying what you mean” is dependent upon a good vocabulary base. Using the right words when talking, makes you a more effective communicator.
- 4. Expressing yourself in Writing.** Having a good vocabulary to draw from can help you write more effectively. Students need to use a more formal tone when writing – not conversational language – and to do that, they need a richer vocabulary to tap into those words we don't use when we speak.
- 5. Occupational success.** Researcher Johnson O'Connor found that “a person's vocabulary level is the best single predictor of occupational success.”* Success in the business place depends on your communication skills.
- 6. Problems Encountered:** In English, like in any other foreign language, some words are easier to learn than others. Easiest of all are the words more or less identical to the students' native language, like, for instance, the word “vocabulary.” However, students might be trapped in their confidence with which they memorize such identical words, since English has a list of some problematic words, called “false friends”. These false friends are words identical in form to certain Romanian words, but completely different in meaning. An example of this would be “sensible.” While many students might confidently translate this word simply “sensible,” they will be astonished to find out that, the Romanian equivalent for “sensible” is in fact “rational,” while the English equivalent for “sensible” is “sensitive.” This demonstrates the crucial importance of allotting a

special lesson for these false friends and of encouraging students to practise them as often as possible.

7. Resources Required:

- Wondrous Words by Katie Wood Ray
- Vocabulary Games for the Classroom by Robert J. Marzano and Lindsay Carleton
- Words, Words, Words by Janet Allen
- Vocabulary Cartoon of the Day by Marc Tyler Nobleman
- Banish Boring Words! by Leilen Shelton

Best Practice: II - Department of English

1. Title: Preparing Students for Debates, Elocution, Essay Writing and Story Telling

2. Objectives:

- To encourage and support students inquisitiveness towards success.
- To enhance the verbal abilities
- To build confidence
- To assist to improve their body language
- To promote competitive spirit and leadership qualities

3. Context: Having realized the above mentioned objectives the Department of English took initiative to address the need.

4. The Practice: The faculty members of the Department of English annually takes up the interested participants in the above mentioned competitions and guide them to arrive at a broader perspective of the above mentioned areas.

5. Evidence of Success: The students participating these competitions often come out bagging the First or Second Places.

6. Problems encountered:

Training and rehearsal - Since most to the time the students going to these competitions are pre occupied with their main stream academic activity it is difficult to train and make the students rehears before they go to the actual competition.

7. Resources Required: It would be desirable if the stake holders from outside take responsibility to sponsor and promote these competitions to encourage the students within the campus.