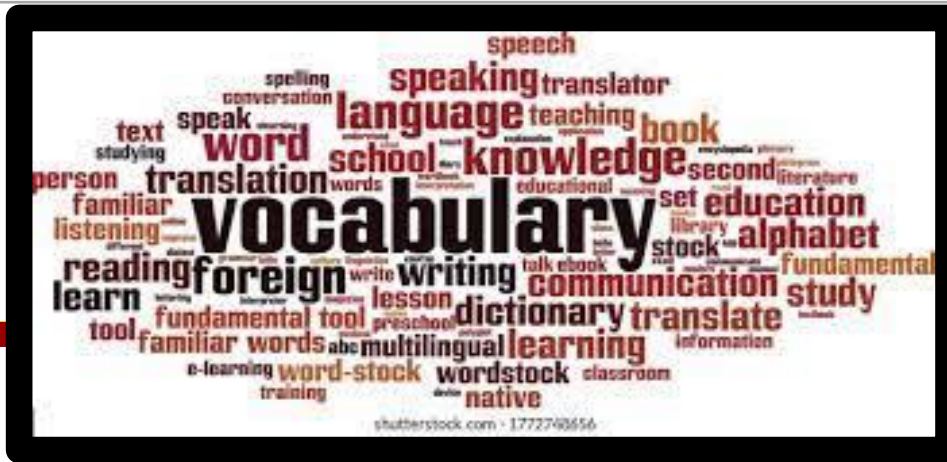


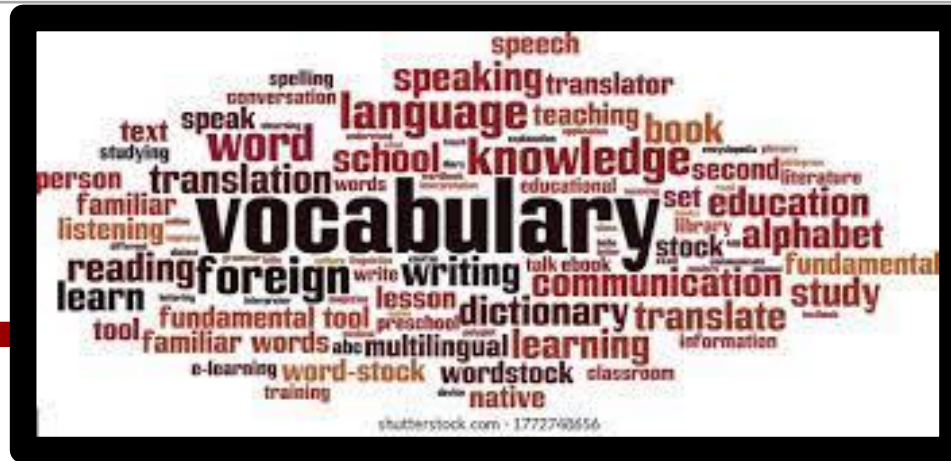
# The Incredible Importance of Vocabulary in Learning a Second Language

**Penn TESOL-East  
Conference 2022**

**Keith Folse**  
*University of Central Florida*







**“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)

# What is vocabulary in L2?

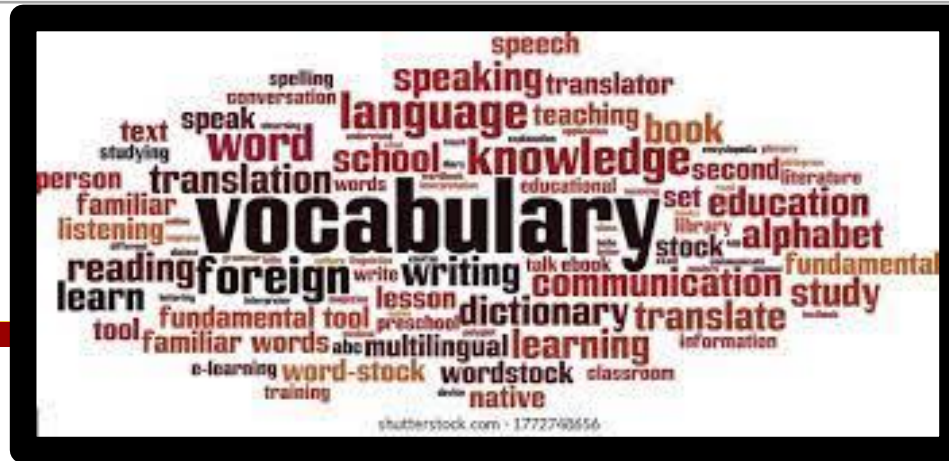
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**Vocabulary is NOT  
just individual words.**

# What is vocabulary in L2?

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- 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)

Cobb, T. (1999). Breadth and depth of lexical acquisition with hands-on concordancing. *Computer Assisted Language Learning*, 12, 345–60.

# 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 شُكْرًا 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**

# *Academic Word Lists*

University of Michigan Press

## You Tube

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UkSHFsRYKZQ>



Author Keith Folse talks about ACADEMIC WORD LISTS (E-SINGLE).





FREE GRAMMAR. PRACTICE for teachers (with Dr. Folse):

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

- **Questions?**
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