



## Video 1 – Key concepts when teaching vocabulary

Hi and welcome to this training about using digital tools to help improve your learners' vocabulary. I'm Pippa, and I'm going to talk you through some ideas for helping your learners to learn vocabulary, by using digital resources. As you know, building vocabulary is an important part of language learning. But how can teachers use digital tools to help learners increase their vocabulary? What are some of the advantages of using technology? And how can it help teachers to motivate their learners to learn vocabulary?

The most important thing to think about is how activities and tasks can help improve learning. If you are teaching vocabulary this is about introducing new items and thinking about meaning, form and pronunciation.

When you learn new vocabulary, it's easy to forget it if you don't practise using it soon after learning it. This is because the new vocabulary needs to go from short-term to long-term memory. Did you know that if you don't revise or practise what you've learned, then, within 24 hours you'll probably have forgotten 50–80% of it? But if you revise it for just 10 minutes, you remember it much better and for much longer.

If your learners have mobile devices, like smartphones or tablets for example, then they have everything they need to practise new vocabulary a little and often. This is the perfect way to help them get new vocabulary into their long-term memory. For example, learners can use apps that include a new word together with a definition, translation or image. Most flashcard apps or websites let you add audio as well, so you can make sure you include pronunciation. Learners can install the flashcard apps on their phones, and create flashcards to practise matching vocabulary items to pictures or definitions. They can do this while they are on a bus or train for example, or during any spare moments they have.

So, how do you find flashcards for your learners to use? There are two ways to do this. One way is to look for ready-made materials. Here's an example of flashcards to help young learners memorise names of animals. This is useful if you haven't made your own sets before, but it means that you have to check carefully to see that the words are the ones that you need for your learners. In the next videos, I'll look at how to use ready-made sets and how to make your own.