

INTRODUCTION TO QUIZLET.COM – A FREE WEB APPLICATION TO STUDY BUSINESS ENGLISH VOCABULARY FOR STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS HOCHIMINH CITY

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Vocabulary plays an important role in studying a foreign language. Without sufficient vocabulary, students cannot understand others and express their own ideas. Having the chance to experience Quizlet, I found that it is very efficient and helpful for learners to stay focused on vocabulary learning and have fun. Therefore, in this article, I would like to introduce Quizlet, an online learning tool offering an easy way to memorize vocabulary lists.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The most critical component of successful language learning is the acquisition of vocabulary. According to McCarten J. (2007) there are many things to learn about each piece of vocabulary (pronunciation, meaning, spoken/written forms, collocations, word family, connotations, grammatical behavior, etc.).

Since students must work with a word or phrase many times before acquisition takes place, teachers must offer variety to keep the exercises fresh and to cater to different learning styles. In addition, we need to help students understand that learning is a gradual process that takes place in small, manageable increments over time, and to encourage them to seek additional information on their own, personalizing the learning experience and tailoring it to their own specific needs. It is crucial to help students become self sufficient learners. It is unlikely that teachers can cover in class the huge number of vocabulary items that students will need to use or understand, so to help students use different techniques and strategies to continue learning outside the classroom is important.

Helping students become independent learners in and out of class

Learners who are independent, devote time to self-study, use a variety of learning strategies, and keep good vocabulary notes are said to be successful in lots of vocabulary learning research. Teachers can set structured learning tasks that can be done out of class in order to help students be better learners and acquire good learning habits. These might include helping students construct a vocabulary notebook, using resources such as dictionaries and the Internet (free web application to study vocabulary), and finding opportunities to use English.

Vocabulary notebooks

Vocabulary notebooks encourage students to continue learning outside of class. The course book can play a valuable role by offering guidance in the form of different types of note-taking skills and learning tips, as well as providing organizing tools such as templates, grids, and charts. Some students write only translations of single words in lists; however, it would be better if they include labeling pictures and diagrams, completing charts and word webs, writing true sentences... . Good vocabulary notebook activities help students recognize what is worth writing down and give ideas for various ways of organizing vocabulary notes

Research tools

Students now have lots of opportunities to access to huge resources online. If students are trained how to use these resources and understand how they can provide information on formality, collocation, grammatical patterns, etc., they can exploit these resources more effectively and become more independent in their learning.

Everyday usage

By providing ideas, materials can provide students who live in non-English-speaking environments with opportunities to activate and practice vocabulary in their everyday life.

QUIZLET.COM– A FREE WEB APPLICATION TO STUDY A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

As a memorization tool, Quizlet is very convenient for students. Being online, it can be used everywhere and every time on variable devices such as computers, iPhones or iPads. If the time for studying foreign languages is limited at universities, Quizlet is really a useful tool for students to learn and improve their vocabulary. The following provides some information about Quizlet.

Quizlet was created by Andrew Sutherland, high school sophomore in Albany, California, US, in 2005 and launched to the public in 2007. Up to January 2014, Quizlet had over 35 million user-generated flashcard sets and more than 11 million registered users.

Quizlet enables teachers create sets of terms customized for their own needs or for their students. These sets of terms can then be studied under six study modes.

1. **Cards:** Flash Card is a simple study method. One side of the card is shown, the other side of the card is hidden. One option available is to show both sides and this option will divide the screen into two with the term and definition shown on the same page. Another option available is to see the Flash Cards feature in full screen.
2. **Learn:** In this mode, users read the definition and type the term. Term being incorrect is recycled until the user gets the correct one, which makes this mode of study very effective.
3. **Speller:** In this mode, the user hears an automated voice and types the term. If the answer is correct, the user moves onto the next one. If it is wrong, however, the program will tell you it is wrong and spell it for you and tell you to type the term again in its proper spelling.
4. **Test:** In this mode, the test is provided in the form of written, multiple choice and true / false questions. The user checks the answers. If the answers are incorrect, the correct answers are provided automatically. Then the user can generate a new test. Quizlet generates customizable randomized tests for your students to boost their long-term memory.

This is useful for students' self-assessment, but the actual learning benefits of this activity cannot be overstated. Self-testing is critical in building robust long-term memory of learned materials (Karpicke & Roediger, 2008), so the more your students test themselves, the better their performance will be in the future.

5. **Scatter:** In this mode, the user matches the terms and definitions which are randomly scattered around the screen. The less time the user spending matching terms with their appropriate definitions, the higher scores he/she gets. This matching game helps with your memory.
6. **Race:** This is a mode that allows players to test their typing skills while memorizing. When a definition is provided, the user has to type the term before a scrolling definition leaves the screen.

The “**Scatter**” and “**Space Race**” games use the word/definition pairs you entered to help your students study in a more interactive and competitive fashion.

HOW TO USE QUIZLET.COM TO STUDY BUSINESS ENGLISH VOCABULARY EFFECTIVELY AT UEH

Now UEH students, following English courses from module 1 to module 4, can use Quizlet to study vocabulary by visiting:

Quizlet.com; UEH-Business English- Module 1-unit 1.1

Quizlet.com; UEH-Business English- Module 1-unit 1.2– collocation

Quizlet.com; UEH-Business English- Module 1-unit 2.1

Quizlet.com; UEH-Business English- Module 1-unit 2. 2-collocation...

Quizlet.com; UEH-Business English- Module 4-unit 12.1

Quizlet.com; UEH-Business English- Module 4-unit 12. 2-collocation

This way of learning vocabulary may not be successful unless teachers support. In order to help students to learn vocabulary effectively, the vocabulary study sheet (appendix 1- module 3_ unit 1_ Pre-intermediate_ Market Leader) should be offered by teachers in charge. Students have to find out the information on Quizlet.com or from dictionaries and fill in the sheet and by this way students can learn vocabulary's pronunciation, part of speech, definition, sentences in which the new word may be used, collocations and family words effectively.

In order to offer our students more opportunities to practice the vocabulary, some activities such as crossword puzzles, word searches, filling in the blanks, reading comprehension, matching games, vocabulary revision board game (appendix 2) ...may be provided afterwards. These activities can be used as warm-up exercises to play in class.

Finally, a test should be designed to convey how well the learner knows and can use the vocabulary (appendix 3_ module 3_ unit 1_ Pre-intermediate_ Market Leader). Furthermore, the test may be use as a means to motivate students to learn and give the teacher information about what should be adapted.

Given the limited amount of time for studying a foreign language at universities, I hope that Quizlet can be used as an efficient tool to help students study vocabulary more independently and effectively and improve their motivation to study in and out of class.

REFERENCES

- McCarten, J. (2007) Teaching Vocabulary, Lessons from the Corpus Lessons for the Classroom. Cambridge University Press
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quizlet>
- www.victoria.ac.nz
- quizlet.com
- <http://www.education.com/worksheets/vocabulary/>

Appendix 1

VOCABULARY STUDY SHEET

Word +pronunciation	Part of peech	Definition	A sentence or phrase	Collocations	Family words
1 career					
2 prefer					
3 priority					
4 manage					
5 represent					
6 develop					
7 delegate					
8 significant					
9 satisfy					
10 employee					
11 decide					
12 offer					
13 promote					
14 influence					
15 reach					
16 opportunity					

Appendix 2



....

Total: /10 marks

VOCABULARY TEST : CAREER (1)

1. **Syllable stress:** Draw a box over the main stressed syllable of the following words:
e.g. educátion

promotion

commission

2. **Word families and parts of speech:** Write the part of speech of the following words, then a family word and finally the part of speech of the family word.

	Part of speech	Family word	Part of speech
e.g. student	noun	study	verb
employ			
retire			

3. **Correct part of speech:** Complete the following sentences using the correct form of the word.
She was intelligent but suffered from a lack of (ambitious).
The country's industry is largely controlled by the (multinational).

4. **Collocations:** Write collocations for the following words
Qualification superior

5. **Sentences:** Write a **good** sentence using each of the following words. Try to use the word with an appropriate collocation. You can change the word family if you want to.
Long-term candidate