

Verba Discenda: Effective Ways to Teach and Assess Vocabulary

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Link to Presentation: www.tinyurl.com/verbadiscenda

Keys to Teaching Vocabulary

1) Repetition: Anywhere between 15-50 per word needed

2) Context: More meaningful if context given

3) Target Language to Target Language: Not just L1-L2

Word Wall

At the front of the classroom, create a list of words/phrases that are in common usage that have been repeated many times.

Eg.

Quid agis/Quomodo valeas?

Optime/Bene/Mediocriter/Male/Pessime

Quid est nomen tibi? Mihi/Tibi/Sibi nomen est...

Ubi?

Cur?

Quis?

Quid?

Minime/Ita vero.

Pictionary

1) Team Pictionary:

- Divide students into two teams
- Split board into two sections, one for each team
- Teams must only look at their board
- Each team member gets a chance to illustrate word on board
- Students sitting down guess words in Latin only

2) Group pictionary:

- Each student gets a whiteboard and marker
- Teacher calls out words in Latin
- Students must illustrate word and show teacher

3) Partner Pictionary:

- Each group of two students gets a whiteboard and markers
- One partner faces the board, one partner face away from the board
- Teacher puts four words on the board
- Students facing the board illustrates the word
- Students facing away from the board must guess the word in Latin
- Team that has the student guess all of the words in Latin first wins



Cartoons

1) Group cartoons:

A.

- A group of students are assigned a story
- The group must illustrate the story in 6-10 slides, creating detailed pictures that demonstrate the vocabulary in the passage
- The group should label the pictures in Latin

B.

- Students are assigned a list of words
- Students must create an illustration that incorporates all of the words
- Students must write 6-10 sentences describing the action of the story in Latin using the vocabulary words

2) Individual cartoons:

- Students are assigned a story
- Students must illustrate the story in 6-10 slides, creating detailed pictures that demonstrate the vocabulary in the passage
- Students may label the pictures in Latin

3) Flashcard cartoons:

- Students create flashcards with a cartoon on one side and the Latin word on the other side



Simonus dicit (Simon says)

Like Simon says, but in Latin! Same rules apply!

You can use indirect statements, but I prefer to use the English form

Eg. Simonus dicit:

- Tangite nasum.
- Tegite aures.
- Tegite oculos.
- Desilite.
- Pulsate in ianua.
- Celate sub mensa.
- Ambulate ad tabulam.
- Consedite in sella.
- Consurgite.



Quid agis? (What are you doing?)

- Students line up in two lines (or get into partners)
- First student does an action.
- Then, another student asks what they are doing.
- The next student says something else (not what they are doing)
- That student must then act out what the other student said.
- Students continue acting out until they misinterpret or take too long to understand the response.



Synonyms/Antonyms

- Teacher gives a list of words
- Students must come up for either a synonym or antonym



- 1) For time: Students with the most in a certain amount of time wins
- 2) Synonym/antonym posters: Students create pictures with a word or category of words

Eg.

Aqua/Fons/Aequor/Mare/Flumen/Rivus/Lacus/Sal/Stagnum/Gurges

The Voldemort Game (Taboo)

**Better for more advanced students:
The word that must not be named**

-Students are given a word in Latin

-Intermediate students: Give synonyms of word

-Advanced students: Describe word in Latin



Verum/Falsum

Teacher says a series of statements using new vocabulary words.

Eg. Feminae togas gerunt.

Cives Romani togam gerunt.

Romani pavones edunt.

Students must move to side of the room based on whether they believe the statement is true or false.

(Students can come up with two truths and a lie about new vocabulary words)



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Convivium

- Do you agree/disagree?
- Who/what is better and why?
- What do you like/dislike?
- What should we do and why?
- How do you feel?
- What do you prefer to do?



[Link to Convivium Document](#)

Iter

Teacher takes students on a tour, in Latin of classroom/school/outside, giving commands and asking questions

Eg.

Ubi est mensa. Hic est mensa.

Ambulate ad ianuam. Pulsate in ianua.

Ambulate e foribus.

Ubi est arbor? Ad dextram. Ad sinistram.

Quid est in caelo? Sol. Nubes. Stellae.



Quizlet

Traditional Quizlet:

- Students create quizlet sets with Latin and pictures
- Students can play review game
- Students can download mobile app

Quizlet Live:

- Students play in teams against each other

Quizlet



Kahoot

Kahoots are basically a way more fun way to do competitive multiple-choice questions.

How to create: www.getkahoot.com

How students login: www.kahoot.it



Assessment in Context

Using a known or unknown passages that contains the vocabulary words, highlight the words in context and have students define the words.

Sample Vocabulary Quiz

Assessment with Pictures

Quis est homo?

Quid laborat?

Ubi est homo?



Quis est homo?

Quid agit?

Ubi est homo?



Quis est homo?

Quid laborat?

Ubi est homo?



Quis est animal?

Quid agit?

Ubi est animal?



Sharing

Please feel free to share additional resources and activities on this Google document.

[Verba Discenda: Resources and Activities](#)

Gratias maximas vobis ago!

Questions? Comments?

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