

# Building Vocabulary Using Digital Platforms

**Vanita Chopra | Chopravanita1981@gmail.com**

Vanita Chopra works as a Consultant with the School English Skills, British Council, India. She has an experience of more than 16 years as a teacher educator. She is also an alumnus of RELO (Regional English Language Office) India and has received several scholarships for various teacher development projects. Her research interests include enhancement and assessment of language skills, online teaching and teacher education.

## Theme: Speak about Your Favourite Vacation (Asynchronous Activity)

*Skills:* Fluency of Ideas and Vocabulary

*Subskills:* Collaboration and communication skills, Questioning, Vocabulary development, Audio/video recording skills

*Requirement:* Access to WhatsApp

*Classes:* 6-8. The activity can be adapted for older students as well.

*Learning Objectives:* To enable learners to:

- enhance collaboration and communication skills
- develop questioning skills
- build vocabulary
- develop skills of audio and video recording

*Duration:* 30 minutes including pre-during and post-task activities

*Procedure:* This activity uses WhatsApp because of its many advantages for learning:

WhatsApp encourages collaboration, extends learning time, allows flipping the classroom by getting students to work outside the classroom, allows sharing of images and videos and recording voice messages.

*Task:*

- Ask students speak about their favourite vacation spot/location and record it using WhatsApp audio or video.
- Get the students to share their recordings with their peers.
- Encourage the students to ask questions or comment on the recording of their peers.
- In this activity, the focus must be on fluency and not on errors.

*Instructions*

1. Ask every student to prepare an audio/video individually.
2. The students should begin by introducing themselves.
3. They should talk about their favourite

vacation spot/place-name the spot and why they chose this spot.

4. They should attach only one picture (if any) of the vacation spot along with their date of visit. Ensure that no outdated or personal picture is attached.
5. They should talk about what they like and what they do not like about the place.
6. Teacher helps students to form a WhatsApp group within a specified time.
7. Students share their audio/video with their friends.

### Extension Activity

Students can:

- Select their friend's audio/video recording
- Listen to the recording multiple times
- Through voice message, ask questions and share their views

### Reflections

- Did the students enjoy using WhatsApp?
- What did they like the most?
- What did they learn from this activity?

## Theme: Storytelling through YouTube and Lingro to Teach New Words (Synchronous Activity)

*Skills:* Vocabulary related to personal expression and pronunciation, reading and writing skills.

*Requirement:* Access to YouTube

*Class:* Class 3 students who have English as a subject and English language proficiency ranging from beginning to intermediate level

*Learning Objectives:*

- To identify the central theme in story
- To be able to pronounce new words correctly
- To be able to construct sentences

focussing on form and meaning

- To develop skills in using YouTube and Lingro

*Duration:* 37 Minutes

*Procedure:* Ensure that students are familiar with YouTube and have access to it.

1. Warm-up activity (3 minutes): Show picture cards of food items to the students. Ask them to identify healthy and unhealthy food items.
2. Story listening (8 minutes): Get the students to listen to the animated story, "Glimpses of a Surgery" on YouTube.
3. Word reading (3 minutes): After the story, read aloud the new words from the story.
4. Guessing meaning (5 minutes): Ask the students to predict the meanings of the new words based on their context.
5. Locating the meaning: (8 min): Introduce the students to Lingro and teach them how to find the meanings of the new words using Lingro.
6. Pronunciation task (5 minutes): Make the students listen to the new words and practice speaking them aloud as they hear them.
7. Writing task (5 minutes): Ask the students to use the new words to make new sentences.
8. Ask the students to share their sentences with the class.

### Extension Activity

- Ask the students to find the meaning of a few other new words (frantic, uproar, sniff, instantly, recovering, tiny, wagging, caretaker and surgery) using Lingro. They are free to seek the help of their parents or siblings.
- Get the students to write sentences using the new words.
- Ask the students to try and use these words in their daily routine.
- Ask the parents to try and record the usage of these words and upload it on YouTube.
- Share the uploaded YouTube videos with a wider audience.