LEARNING ENGLISH VOCABULARY FROM WORD CARDS: A RESEARCH SYNTHESIS

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WHAT CAN I LEARN FROM THIS SECONDARY RESEARCH?

How effective are different types of word cards for language learners?

WHAT DOES IT FIND?

- Generally, word cards, either digital or paper, ready-made or self-constructed, can be effective for vocabulary learning.
- Paper word cards can be more effective than digital word cards.
- Ready-made word cards can be more effective than self-structured word cards.
- Word cards are better used for intentional vocabulary learning than incidental vocabulary learning.
- Word cards are more popular with learners at higher levels of proficiency.
- When learners are introduced to new words, mass learning can be more effective because it will result in a large number of repeated encounters with the words. Mass learning can then be followed with spaced learning.

KEY TERMS

Word cards

Cards for learning vocabulary with information such as meaning, image, pronunciation

WHAT EVIDENCE IS SUMMARISED?

32 studies

HOW CAN I USE THE FINDINGS IN MY TEACHING?

- Teachers can encourage learners to make word cards for the new words they learn.
- Giving the word cards to students can be more effective when teachers instruct the learners on how to use the words cards.
- Teachers should apply different strategies on using word cards.