



Once I was sure that my students had mastered the first set of vocabulary, we moved onto learning the second set, which was about how we get ready. As I explicitly taught the vocabulary for things such as getting dressed, I had students recall the previous vocabulary set and asked them to apply this in a more complex sentence ("In the morning at 8 o'clock, I get dressed").

After assessing my students to make sure that they had mastered this second set of vocabulary, I moved onto the third set. Students combined the first 2 sets of vocabulary to describe more actions in the present tense, which helped them to retrieve their prior learning of tense and activities ("In the morning at 8 o'clock I get dressed, I eat breakfast and then I go to school").

In between these spaced lessons of explicit vocabulary teaching, we engaged in lots of different learning activities so that students could practise what they had learnt.

## How do we describe the behaviour of a verb?

Giving students lots of opportunities to become comfortable speaking in another language helps them commit the language to long-term memory. The more vocabulary you teach at once, the more overwhelming it is, making it more likely students will forget parts of it. Using these sentence building blocks takes away the strain on their memories by breaking the learning down into manageable blocks, helping them commit the first set to memory before we move on. I find this helps students to access their learning next time with more ease. This is in line with what the research says about how the brain works.

These practices also allow me to clearly track my students' progress and gives them lots of time to practise. Many of my students are quite nervous about using new vocabulary, so spacing out the learning and reintroducing words through games and other conversation activities increases their confidence. My students love using online quiz platforms in independent practice, and we play lots of games that focus on using new vocabulary in different situations in different situations.