Concept Mapping: an Innovative Method of Vocabulary Building

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Vocabulary learning in AEP

• Courses rely heavily on complex vocabulary items
• Vocabulary items are taught in isolation
• Relationships within and between items are often neglected

• Vocabulary recognition can predict academic achievement in English
  (Roche, Harrington, 2013)
Problems of Vocabulary for ESP instruction

• Tasking students individually with creating definitions for each item would be a daunting task
• Students tend to copy/paste definitions
  • Copy/pasting of definitions has a minimal effect on understanding
Vocabulary for ESP

- learning vocabulary items for specific purposes often requires greater depth
- In Earth and Ocean Sciences (EOSC 110 for example) students are required to become familiar with many specific terms
- These terms are all related, but from a vocabulary list, the relationships remains unclear.
In this EOSC 110 example, students are required to understand much more than simply relating a vocabulary item to a specific "thing". Understanding what the vocabulary item represents is a minimal requirement. Students must also understand:

- Where the “item” can be found
- What state the “item” is in (S, L, G)
- The relationship between the items
- What the “item” is comprised of
- Types of rocks produced
What is Mind Mapping?

• A simple way to visually map out a topic in an organic way.

• It starts with one or more central topics then repeatedly branches out, breaking down information into a hierarchy of its components.

• The items can be positioned spatially, formatted for size, colour to help with memory and recall.
Mind mapping and vocabulary building

• Digital Mind Mapping helps in finding and memorizing vocabularies that were otherwise hard to connect with already known knowledge (Kim & Kim, 2012).

• Visual mapping methods that involve students actively taking part in their vocabulary development, combined with cooperative learning groups, provides an effective environment for the development of vocabulary (Bazeli & Olle, 1995)

• It is possible to get higher educational achievements because students use both sides of the brain (Kim, 2005)
Who are Mind Maps for?

• Mind maps are useful for anyone to plan, take notes, visualise information, brainstorm, solve problems, study, and share information...

• Everyone who values visual thinking, in business, education, or just in their personal life can find mind maps useful to organise information.

• Other names: concept mapping, spider diagrams, brainstorm diagrams and others, but you can use Coggle for all of them!
Coggle:

- provides an easy way to share and understand complex information.
- is a collaborative document that simplifies complex things and a shared workspace to help students work effectively together.
- can be used to create visually appealing diagrams.
- has an infinite number of branching possibilities.
- has a clean interface and is easy-to-use
Student-generated example
Student generated example
Share publically or keep private
What our students had to say

• “It can show clearly about the relationship between different words and concept.”
• “It is good for sorting words and ideas into categories.”
• “It’s a fun activity to do it makes us to recall the concepts from the class to connect them together.”
• “There are branches that show different sorts of concepts.”
• “It can make our review more efficient.”
• “Color codes create maps that are effective for review.”
• “I think this project can be used to summarize the main idea.”
Student responses to: How do you think it can help you in your studies?

• “It can be used for outline or brainstorming for essay or research.”

• “It’s a good activity for courses like geology or similar subjects that English words represents big concepts.”

• This website can be used to develop ideas of writing assignments and remember words for understanding concepts.”

• “The graph it creates is clear and easy to remember. I think we can use this website for other classes.”

• “If we add some main points on it, it will help us more when we are reviewing the course.”
Coggle Creation Menu: The Basics

• Add unlimited parent/child nodes with a simple mouse click
• Click on a line to re-shape or lengthen/shorten it
• Drag and drop images in the browser
• Download your work as a PDF or image
• Share mind maps simply, giving collaborators read/write privileges
• Collaborate in real-time with others on separate machines by inviting partners to collaborate
• Help students brainstorm and explore an idea, concept, or problem
• Help students take notes and plan tasks
• Organize ideas and communicate thought processes
• Plan a portfolio or project
• Create a literary web
• Compare and contrast
• You can organize your Coggles in your Google Drive, right along with your other documents
Demonstration/Examples

• **Basic Coggle**
Your turn!

• Categorization of Animals based on Eating Habits
  • blogs.ubc.ca/neilleveridge/
    • BCTEAL – Coggle Workshop

• Envelopes of terms, class words...