**Vocabulary learning through word cards**

Research on learning vocabulary has shown the following (Nation, 2008):

* Large number of words can be learned in a very short time.
* Learners differ in their rate of learning. Learning rates in experimental conditions can range from around 30 words per hour to over a hundred.
* What has been learned can be remembered for a very long time.

Use the following strategies (from Nation, 2008) to learn new words using cards:

1. Make three packs of up to 50 cards for each pack that are small and easy to carry in your pocket. Use rubber band to hold them together.
2. Write a useful word, phrase, or sentence on one side of the card and its translation in your first language, or write the definition of the word on the other side.
3. Go through the pack, looking at each foreign word or phrase and trying to recall what was written on the other side. If the translation cannot be recalled, then the card is turned over to see what was written there.
4. Words that were easy to recall are placed on the bottom of the pack. Those that had to be turned over are slipped somewhere into the middle so that they can be looked at again soon.
5. After going through the pack once or twice, it is put away, ready to be looked at again in about half an hour.
6. The cards in the pack are looked at again at increasingly spaced intervals of time—half an hour later, later that day, the next day, two days later, a week later and son on.
7. Words that are difficult to remember can be transferred to a new pack. Special techniques like the keyword and the word part analysis strategies can be applied to those words.
8. When the words have been learned receptively (look at the foreign word, recall its meaning), then the cards are turned over and the words are learned productively (look at the L1 word and recall the foreign word).