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## **Mind Mapping Technology in Teaching English**

Nowadays a creative teacher of English is constantly searching for some new techniques to motivate his students. There is a great variety of innovations admitted to be effective, among which you can find *mind mapping* which proves to boost the process of mastering the language.

There are various definitions of this technique and appropriate understanding of the issue can be formed due to appealing to some of them: "A mind map is a diagram that represents a central topic and its related subtopics, keywords, images, and symbols. It uses branches, colors, and shapes to show the hierarchy and associations between the elements. A mind map can be created manually or digitally, using various tools and applications. The main purpose of a mind map is to capture and display information in a way that is easy to understand and remember" [1]. Wikipedia outlines: "A mind map is a diagram used to visually organize information into a hierarchy, showing relationships among pieces of the whole. It is often created around a single concept, drawn as an image in the center of a blank page, to which associated representations of ideas such as images, words and parts of words are added. Major ideas are connected directly to the central concept, and other ideas branch out from those major ideas. Mind maps can also be drawn by hand, either as "notes" during a lecture, meeting or planning session, for example, or as higher quality pictures when more time is available. Mind maps are considered to be a type of spider diagram" [3].

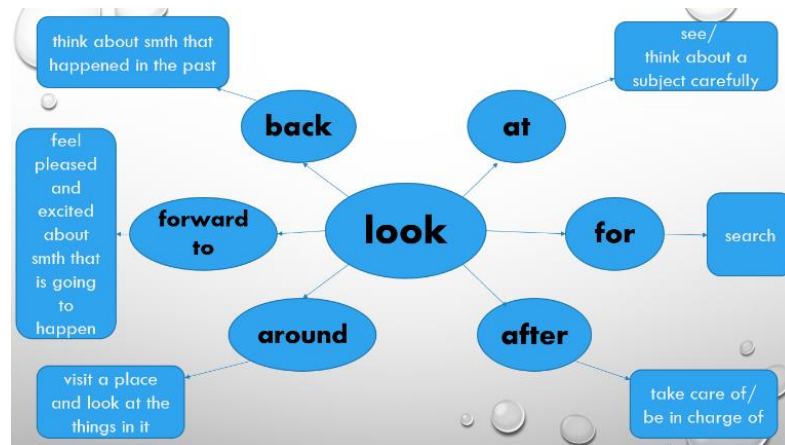
Working out our own comprehension of the phenomenon under consideration we can define mind mapping as a technique which helps students visualize, organize, and remember language concepts effectively. It can enhance their awareness of grammar, vocabulary, and other language components, expressing them with diagrams and other forms of graphical representation of knowledge and thinking process. Mind maps can structure language components into cognitive complexity and coherence. Thus, such technique supports the development of speaking competence as well. You just place the related concepts of a topic in a circle or a square or some other symbol, and then link the related concepts with a line to indicate the relationships between them.

This innovative technique is rather helpful in developing creative and critical thinking skills as well as soft skills. It teaches to think "up" (taking into consideration separate details of the language phenomena under study and generalizing them into a proper scheme image) and "down" (from general idea to its components and details). Additionally, mind mapping allows you to break down complex information into smaller, more manageable chunks, making it easier to understand and remember. The following key benefits of mind mapping can be highlighted:

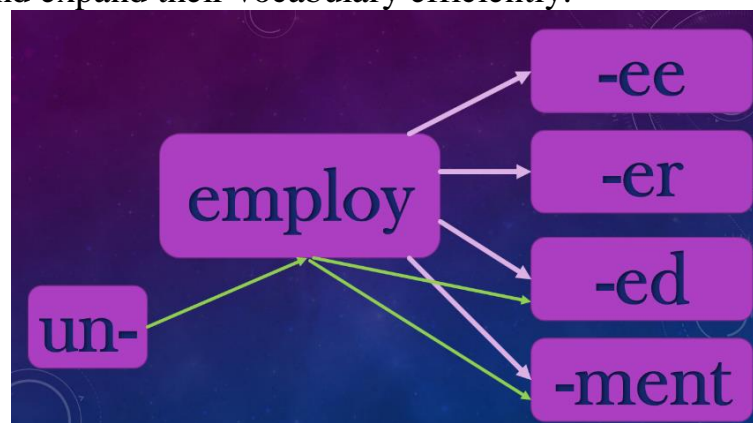
- Increasing productivity by organizing thoughts and ideas effectively
- Improving memory by visually representing information and associations
- Enhancing creativity by facilitating connections and generating new ideas[2].

Mind mapping can be applied to different goals of English teaching process. Let's see how it works dealing with teaching or learning vocabulary, grammar and developing speaking competence.

Studying phrasal verbs, either a teacher or a student can construct a map with a verb in the central circle and prepositions or adverbs, which influence the final meaning, around it, with further links to definitions/ or demonstrative pictures/ or translation.



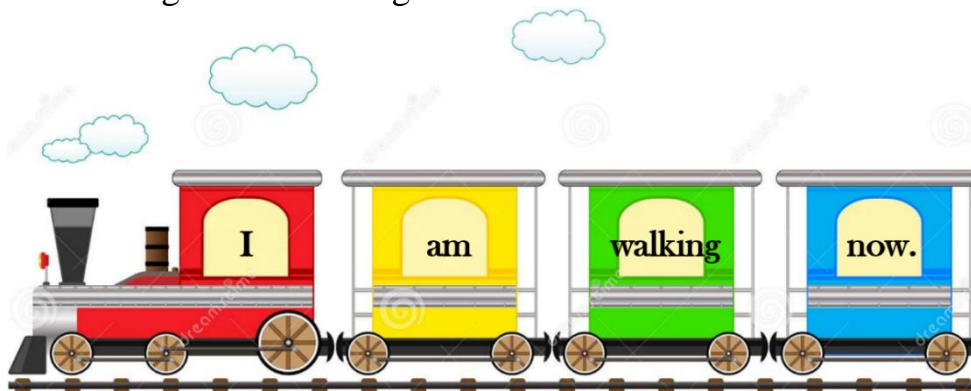
It is also possible to make students get used to design in their minds the map of possible derivatives, and thus, teach them to enlarge their vocabulary. Derivation is one of the most productive method of word formation, which refers to the relationship between root and affixes. Mind mapping is helpful for students to analyze the morpheme composition of words, so that students can expand vocabulary from one morpheme to other words, so as to deepen their understanding of the meaning of words and expand their vocabulary efficiently.



As for the grammar, mind mapping also proves to be helpful. Imagine grouping the irregular verbs not in alphabetic order but paying attention to its spelling similarities.



Or word order presented as a multi-coloured train in which each carriage demonstrates a proper syntactical member of the sentence or visualizes the forms of the predicate in a proper tense form as well as speech patterns or chunks or whatever. It attracts the student's attention stimulating creative thinking and having pleasure instead of dull exercising or memorizing.



Mind maps reflect and visualize the thinking process, expand the thinking content, and can therefore be effective in anticipating speaking or writing activities. Mind mapping provides visualizing the ideas in their logical order and result in outlining the future speech or an essay. Students can outline the issues to be mentioned in a speech or an essay placing them around the key word/word combination, moving them either to define major and minor points or find the optimal logical order. This is a kind of pre-speaking or pre-writing exercising which helps the student organize his thoughts and knowledge and serves as a visual support to ensure his upcoming speaking/writing activity (that is the next higher difficulty level).



The tools of realizing the process of using mind-mapping strategy in the English classroom range from simple things at hand to higher technology instruments. The teacher can use a piece of chalk to draw the circles, symbols or key words on the blackboard. He can offer the students stickers, various cards or toy blocks with images of letters or pictures demonstrating the lexical units they currently study to place them in a proper way due to the purposes of that period of learning. There may be situation cards to place in a logical order to anticipate retelling of the text under the study or making their own story (a model for storytelling strategy to be used in the English classroom). Shots from the short films can also be used to map the different aspects of the plot before the forthcoming next level activities. Computers and internet provide a great number of instruments for mind mapping: composing a map on a slide in Power Point, comprehending a virtual board as a tool for mind mapping. Using numerous applications and software for the same purposes may turn out helpful and involving students into an active process of mastering different phenomena of the English language.

So, educational technologies have contributed greatly to the improvement of the process of education. Mind mapping can be considered as a teaching method to raise motivation and meaningfulness with its features being contextual, visual, sometimes multi-dimensional and interactive. It is an effective innovative tool to make student active while learning English. It provokes reflection with its analysis and leads to improved fluency and communication skills. Mind mapping as an alternative teaching method that can help become English teacher or learner more effective as supports them with active, involving and creative approach to the process of studying English.

### Список використаних джерел

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