

TEACHING READING THROUGH GRAMMAR

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Abstract. This article discusses the matters of teaching reading through grammar as an effective and holistic approach that can greatly enhance a learner's reading comprehension skills. By integrating grammar instruction into reading lessons, students develop a deeper understanding of both grammar rules and the text they are reading. This article will explore the benefits of teaching reading through grammar and provide practical strategies for implementing this approach in the classroom.

Key words: grammar instruction, developing vocabulary, critical thinking, pre-reading activities, grammar structures, grammar-focused worksheets.

ОБУЧЕНИЕ ЧТЕНИЮ ЧЕРЕЗ ГРАММАТИКУ

Аннотация. В этой статье обсуждаются вопросы обучения чтению с помощью грамматики как эффективного и целостного подхода, который может значительно улучшить навыки понимания прочитанного учащимся. Интегрируя обучение грамматике в уроки чтения, учащиеся приобретают более глубокое понимание как грамматических правил, так и текста, который они читают. В этой статье будут рассмотрены преимущества обучения чтению посредством грамматики и предложены практические стратегии реализации этого подхода в классе.

Ключевые слова: обучение грамматике, развитие словарного запаса, критическое мышление, деятельность перед чтением, грамматические структуры, грамматические рабочие листы.

INTRODUCTION

There is a tendency for some people to believe that when we teach grammar to our children in such a thorough and systematic way, they lose the creative aspect of writing. Any attempts by the pupil to be creative with their writing expression are stifled by the cognitive work expended to ensure their sentence structure is grammatically correct. The issue with this line of thinking, in my opinion, is that the dyslexic learner won't be able to exhibit the creativity in written expression that is frequently innate in persons with dyslexia until s/he is able to create a sentence accurately and automatically.

METHODS

Enhancing Reading Comprehension

Integrating grammar instruction into reading lessons helps students make connections between the structure of sentences and the meaning conveyed in the text. By analyzing the grammar patterns used in the text, students gain a better understanding of how words function together to create meaning. This, in turn, improves their ability to comprehend and interpret written material.

Developing Vocabulary and Language Skills

Grammar instruction naturally exposes students to new vocabulary and language structures. By examining the grammatical features of a text, such as verb tenses, noun phrases, and adjectives, students expand their vocabulary and deepen their understanding of how words work together. This increased exposure to language helps students build a strong foundation for future reading and writing tasks.

Fostering Critical Thinking

Teaching reading through grammar encourages students to think critically about the text they are reading. By analyzing the grammar used in a passage, students learn to identify relationships between ideas, draw inferences, and make predictions. These critical thinking skills are essential for comprehension and enable students to engage with the text on a deeper level.

Developing Writing Skills

Integrating grammar instruction into reading lessons also benefits students' writing skills. As students analyze the grammar patterns used in the text, they become more aware of sentence structures, word choices, and punctuation. This knowledge can then be applied in their own writing, helping them develop stronger writing skills and produce well-structured and coherent compositions.

Now let's explore some practical strategies for teaching reading through grammar:

Pre-Reading Activities

Before diving into the text, engage students in pre-reading activities that focus on the grammar concepts they will encounter. For example, if the text features a lot of comparative adjectives, provide students with practice exercises and discussions on this grammar point. This prepares them for the language they will encounter and primes their understanding of the text.

Analyzing Grammar Structures in the Text

While reading, guide students to identify and analyze specific grammar structures or patterns found in the text. Ask them to highlight or underline examples and discuss the role and function of these structures in conveying meaning. Encourage students to make connections between grammar and the overall comprehension of the text.

Creating Grammar-Focused Worksheets or Activities

Design worksheets or activities that integrate grammar and reading exercises. For example, provide students with a passage filled with missing articles, prepositions, or verb tenses. Ask them to identify and fill in the correct grammatical forms, enhancing their understanding and application of grammar rules.

Sentence and Vocabulary Exercises

Promote deeper comprehension by asking students to construct sentences using vocabulary words found in the text. This exercise encourages students to not only understand the meaning of the words, but also how they are used in context. Additionally, have students create their own short stories or paragraphs, incorporating the grammar structures they have learned from the reading material.

Guided Reading and Discussion

Incorporate guided reading sessions, where students read aloud or silently, followed by discussions focusing on the grammar aspects of the text. Prompt students to identify specific

examples of grammar, explain its function, and discuss how it contributes to the overall meaning of the text. This activity encourages active engagement and reinforces comprehension skills.

This approach not only enhances language skills but also fosters a deeper appreciation and understanding of the texts being read.

Certainly! Here are some additional points to consider when teaching reading through grammar:

Differentiating Instruction

Every learner is unique, and it's important to differentiate instruction to meet their needs. Some students may require additional support in understanding grammar concepts, while others might need more challenging activities to further develop their language skills. Adapt your instruction accordingly by providing extra practice exercises, offering scaffolding strategies, or incorporating extension projects for advanced learners.

Incorporating Authentic Materials

Using authentic materials, such as newspaper articles, short stories, or informational texts, can make the learning experience more engaging and relevant for students. Authentic texts expose learners to real-world language and provide opportunities to analyze grammar structures in context. Encourage students to reflect on how the grammar choices impact the tone, meaning, and overall effectiveness of the text.

Integrating Technology

Utilize technology tools to support grammar instruction and reading comprehension activities. Online grammar resources and interactive websites can provide additional practice, explanations, and immediate feedback to students. Digital platforms that offer reading materials with embedded grammar exercises can help students develop their skills in an interactive and engaging way.

Peer Collaboration

Encourage peer collaboration and discussion during grammar-focused reading activities. Pair or group students together to analyze and discuss the grammar structures they encounter in the text. This collaborative approach fosters a supportive learning environment where students can share their insights, ask questions, and learn from one another.

Assessing Progress

Regularly assess students' progress in both reading comprehension and grammar skills. Use a variety of formative and summative assessment methods, such as quizzes, oral presentations, written responses, and projects. These assessments provide valuable feedback on students' understanding of grammar concepts, their application of those concepts in reading tasks, and their overall growth as readers.

CONCLUSION

Teaching reading through grammar is not about overwhelming students with technical grammar rules but rather helping them develop a deep understanding of language structures that support their reading comprehension. Use a balanced approach that integrates grammar instruction with meaningful reading activities and focuses on building students' overall literacy skills. By teaching reading through grammar, educators provide students with valuable tools to analyze, interpret, and appreciate written texts. This approach empowers learners to become critical readers

who can navigate complex texts with confidence, understand the nuances of language, and effectively express themselves through writing. Teaching reading through grammar offers numerous benefits, including enhanced reading comprehension, improved vocabulary, critical thinking development, and stronger writing skills. By integrating grammar instruction into reading lessons through pre-reading activities, analyzing grammar structures, creating grammar-focused worksheets, engaging in sentence and vocabulary exercises, and facilitating guided reading and discussion sessions, teachers can effectively support students' reading proficiency and overall language development.

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