

Contents

Authors' preface vii

1 Words and their forms 1

Part A What do we know about this? 1

What is a word and how are words formed? 1

Words and lexical items 3

Words and pronunciation 5

Words change 6

How big is the vocabulary and how many words do speakers know? 7

Part B What are the problems for learners? 8

How many words can learners learn? 8

What other issues are there for learners? 9

Part C How do we teach it? 10

What should we teach about words? 10

How many words should we teach, and which ones? 11

Chapter review 12

2 Words and their meanings 14

Part A What do we know about this? 14

How do words mean? 14

Words can have more than one meaning (polysemy) 15

Meaning changes over time 17

Connotation and register 19

Part B What are the problems for learners? 21

Understanding words under their different meanings 21

Learning new meanings as a process 21

Acquiring a core procedural vocabulary 22

L1 transfer and false friends 22

Part C How do we teach it? 23

Pre-teaching and post-teaching of meaning 23

Teaching vocabulary directly 24

How do we teach abstract words? 24

Teaching sense relations 25

Encouraging note-keeping 25

Reading and concordancing 26

Chapter review 26

3 Collocations 28

Part A What do we know about this? 28

What is collocation? 28

What types of words collocate with each other? 29

Collocations and word frequency 30

Weak and strong collocations 30

Collocations and meanings 31

Collocations and register 33

Part B What are the problems for learners? 34

How well do learners learn and use collocations? 34

Learning special registers 35

Part C How do we teach it? 36

Chapter review 38

4 The grammar of words 40

Part A What do we know about this? 40

Words have grammatical relationships with other words 40

Collocation and colligation 41

Paradigmatic and syntagmatic relationships 43

Do I need a dictionary or a grammar book? 44

Part B What are the problems for learners? 46

Another layer of learning 46

Negative transfer from first language 47

Part C How do we teach it? 47

At what stage? 47

Materials to use 48

Chapter review 49

5 Multi-word items 51

Part A What do we know about this? 51

Compounds 51

Prepositional phrases 53

Lexical chunks 54

Part B What are the problems for learners? 57

Part C How do we teach it? 58

Context and level 58

Chapter review 60

6 Idioms 62

Part A What do we know about this? 62

What is an idiom? 62

What different types of idioms are there? 64

How frequent are idioms in everyday language? 65

Are some words more likely to occur in idioms than others? 66

What do idioms mean and how do people use them? 67

Part B What are the problems for learners? 69

Part C How do we teach it? 70

Chapter review 72

7 Word relations 74

Part A What do we know about this? 74

What are word relationships? 74

What types of word relationships are there? 75

Part B What are the problems for learners? 82

Part C How do we teach it? 83

Chapter review 85

8 Words in text and discourse 87

Part A What do we know about this? 87

What is a text? 87

Lexical cohesion 88

Lexical chains and topics 90

Stance 92

Register 93

Part B What are the problems for learners? 94

Part C How do we teach it? 97

Chapter review 100

9 Words in the mind 101

Part A What do we know about this? 101

How the mind organises vocabulary 101

Input 102

Storage 104

Retrieval 105

Part B What are the problems for learners? 107

Part C How do we teach it? 109

Behaviourism 109

Cognitivism 110

Interactionist theories of SLA 110

Sociocultural theories 110

The lexical approach 111

Chapter review 111

10 Words in society 113

Part A What do we know about this? 113

Vocabulary change 113

The influence of the media 115

Language and social life 117

Speech and writing 118

Mind your language! 119

Part B What are the problems for learners? 120

Part C How do we teach it? 122

Chapter review 124

References 127

Task commentaries 132

Review answer key and commentaries 147

Glossary 156

Index 161