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DIAGNOSTIC TESTING: AN ALTERNATIVE

Diagnostic Tests for Seventh Graders

“I was hoping maybe someone out there is willing to share examples of 7th grade diagnostic tests that are given at the beginning of the year - anything would be helpful”.

“I am looking for diagnostic tests for grade 7 to grade 9. If anyone has any good and up to date ones I would appreciate it”.

“Does anyone have a good diagnostic test for the 7th grade?”

ETNI mailing list

And what kind of tests are sent in response?

What are the problems with this test?

- Takes a long time to check
- What is the academic foundation that validates this test?

Without grammar very little can be conveyed……

Without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed.

(Wilkins, 1972)

Vocabulary

Close correlation between vocabulary size and reading comprehension

Take a look at this text

This research paper intends to design an assessment tool to be used as a diagnostic test appropriate for Hebrew speaking seventh grade pupils in Israel. It will test knowledge of the most frequently used one thousand words in the English language. The test will first be designed and written, and will then be examined by experts to assess its validity.

- Introduction to final paper of my M.Ed.

Vocabulary Profile

	Families	Types	Tokens	Percent
K1 Words (1-1000):	28	30	**43**	**71.67%**
Function:	...	...	(26)	(43.33%)
Content:	...	...	(17)	(28.33%)
> Anglo-Sax =Not Greco-Lat/Fr Cog:	...	...	(7)	(11.67%)
K2 Words (1001-2000):	5	5	**5**	**8.33%**
> Anglo-Sax:	...	...	(1)	(1.67%)
1k+2k			...	(80.00%)
AWL Words (academic):	7	9	**9**	**15.00%**
> Anglo-Sax:	...	...	()	(0.00%)
Off-List Words:	?	3	**3**	**5.00%**
	40+?	47	60	100%

Current profile	
%	Cumul.
71.67	71.67
8.33	80.00
15.00	95.00
5.00	100.00

100 Most Frequently Used Words

1	the	21	this	41	so	61	people	81	back
2	be	22	but	42	up	62	into	82	after
3	to	23	his	43	out	63	year	83	use
4	of	24	by	44	if	64	your	84	two
5	and	25	from	45	about	65	good	85	how
6	a	26	they	46	who	66	some	86	our
7	in	27	we	47	get	67	could	87	work
8	that	28	say	48	which	68	them	88	first
9	have	29	her	49	go	69	see	89	well
10	I	30	she	50	me	70	other	90	way
11	it	31	or	51	when	71	than	91	even
12	for	32	an	52	make	72	then	92	new
13	not	33	will	53	can	73	now	93	want
14	on	34	my	54	like	74	look	94	because
15	with	35	one	55	time	75	only	95	any
16	he	36	all	56	no	76	come	96	these
17	as	37	would	57	just	77	its	97	give
18	you	38	there	58	him	78	over	98	day
19	do	39	their	59	know	79	think	99	most
20	at	40	what	60	take	80	also	100	us

How much vocabulary (%) do you need to know in order to understand a text?

- What would you guess? 80%? 85%? 90%? 95%? More?
- Answer: 95-98%

… in order to guess the rest from context (Schmitt, 2008).

- Students need to know 5,000 – 8,000 vocabulary items families in order to understand an unsimplified text (Schmitt, 2008).

If we test vocabulary, we test English!

Therefore we can have a vocabulary test as a diagnostic test.

And here it is….

1.

a b c d

eye ☐

5. move love play save

a b c d

☐ ☐ ☐

7. קל קשה קהה שימושי

a b c d

dark ☐ easy ☐ useful ☐

9. almost _____

10. fact _____

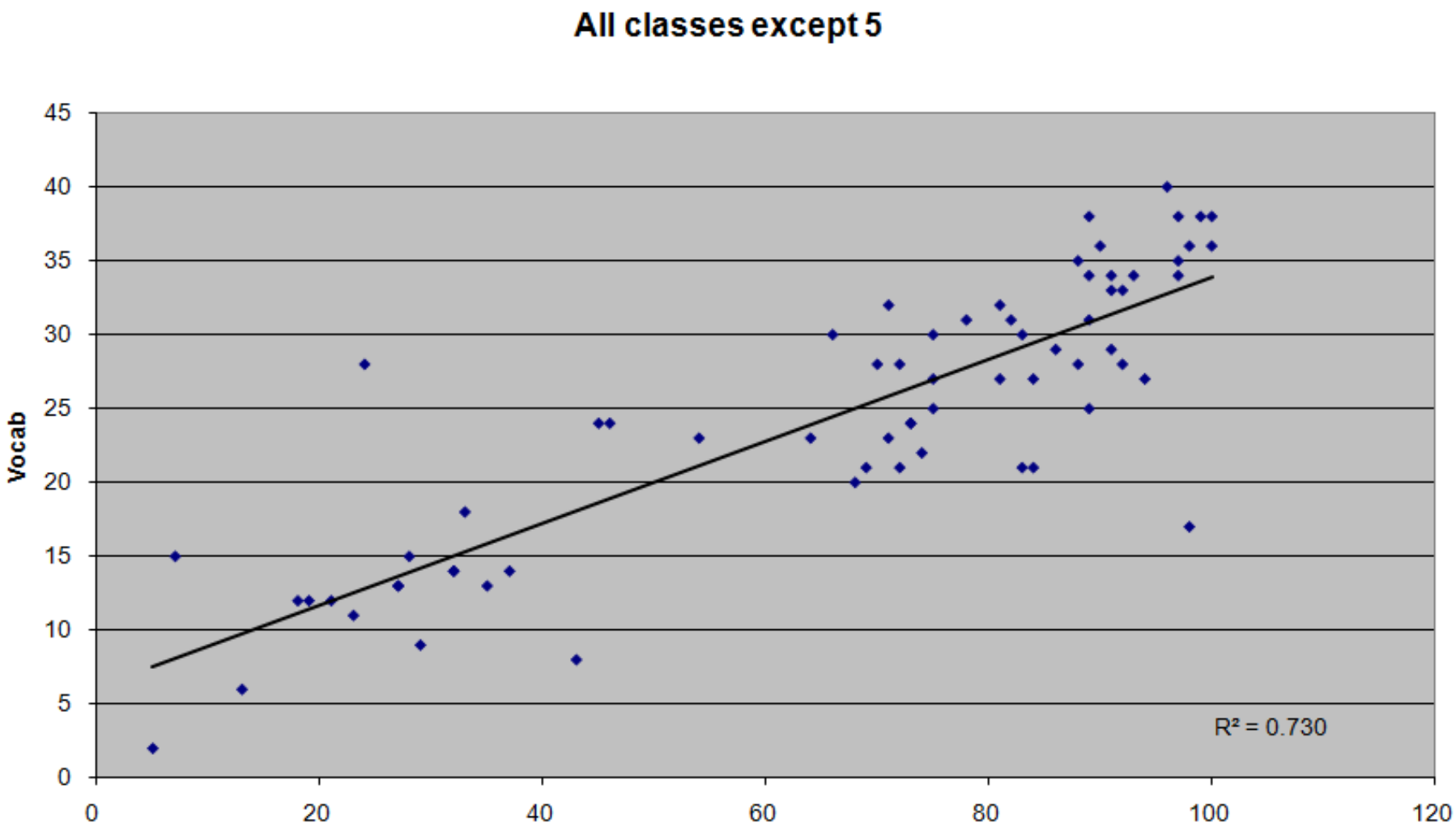
14. תמיד a_____

15. נייר p_____

19. למצוא _____

20. לשים _____

The Most Important Slide



Summary

- Knowledge of vocabulary is a good predictor of reading comprehension
- Why spend ages checking tests if there's a test than can be checked quickly?

Further Questions?

Email me

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