Mind Maps As A Visual Teaching Method

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ABSTRACT

The article reveals the one of the innovative and effective teaching methods as mind maps. Mind maps, which are graphic expression of the processes of multidimensional thinking and therefore are the most natural way of thinking of the human brain. Besides it, it is considered a powerful visual method that provides a universal key to unlocking the potential in everyone's brain.

Keywords: Mind map, effective method, visual method, multidimensional thinking, human brain

Thinking maps help us understand the difference between the ability to store a volume of information that can be imprinted in memory and the efficiency of information storage, which is why this method is intended. Effective storage of information means its assimilation and understanding. In addition, the more information is acquired, thus, the stronger become memory, thinking and intelligence.

The use of mental maps in English lessons allows you to:

- Create motivation to master a foreign language as a means of communication.
- Organize individual, group and collective activities of students.
- Design educational content in accordance with the age characteristics of students.
- Take a differentiated approach to students.
- Organize students' independent work.
- Organize student project activities.

A mind map is a learning tool that allows users to create and share visual representations of things like lectures, notes, and research. In fact, mind mapping in education is useful for a wide variety of tasks, and can be easily tailored to the user's needs. Mind map – mental maps (mind maps, mental maps or intelligence maps), translated from English, and were invented by the American scientist Tony Buzan in the 60-70 years of the XX century (Figure 1)

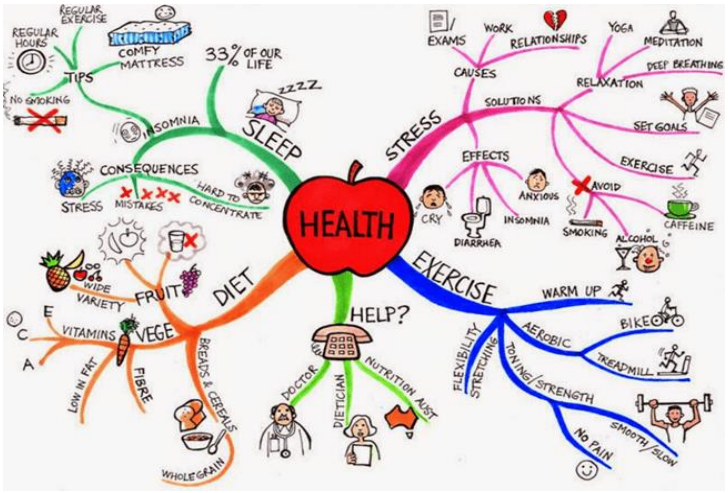

Figure 1

For teachers and students, mind mapping offers a fundamentally different way to work with information. For most of our lives, we are asked to learn information that is presented in a linear form. Lectures, videos and textbooks all present information in orderly linear ways – with a beginning, middle and end. This is excellent for delivering information, but synthesizing and integrating new information, – the key to deep learning – requires very different cognitive processes.

This is where visual learning and mind mapping come in. ***Mapping allows students to capture ideas*** and integrate content in no fixed or prescribed order, and in ways that use multiple senses. When mapping an idea, a person can skip around from topic to topic, but rather than leading to confusion, mind mapping provides an effective way to capture thinking as it happens.

When students use mind maps as a study or learning tool, they are able grasp the concepts more easily because they are integrating themselves into the learning process. It is similar to the act of studying, reiterating, and explaining information to a partner. As students build out a mind map, their brain is forced to make associations between various pieces of seemingly disconnected information. In the end, this helps students develop a clearer and more complete picture of a topic or concept.

Mind maps are a convenient technique for presenting thinking processes or structuring information in a visual form.

The goals of creating maps can be very different: remembering complex material, transmitting information, clarifying for yourself some issue. Mind cards can be used in a wide variety of situations: in professional activities, in training, for individual planning.

There are certain rules for creating mental maps developed by **Tony Buzan**, which are described in detail in his book "*How to Mind Map*", namely:

- ✓ *The main idea, problem or word is centered.*
- ✓ *To depict a central idea, you can use drawings, pictures.*
- ✓ *Each main branch has its own color*.

In our modern world with a large flow of information, the use of mental maps in teaching students can give huge positive results, as one can learn to choose structure and remember key information, as well as reproduce it later. Thinking cards help to develop creative and critical thinking, memory and attention of learners, as well as make learning and learning processes more interesting, entertaining and fruitful.

Mind maps can be used for:

1) *Work with lexical material: introduction of new vocabulary, consolidation of new vocabulary and vocabulary control.*
2) *Work with grammatical material. You can compose mental maps of the studied grammatical material with the goal of assimilation and memorization.*
3) *Work with text material. Drawing up plans for retelling texts in the form of mental maps.*
4) *Teaching oral monologue utilization using verbal supports.*

The material map acts as the verbal support of the utterance. It is effective to use cards in preparation for the exam, since less time is spent on remembering and repeating information, and its reproduction becomes more meaningful.

5) *Presentation of the results of project activities. You can depict the whole process of creating a project as a mental map, or just the results of the projects, new ideas. Then, during the presentation of the project, everything that is shown on the map is explained.*
6) *Brainstorming. With the help of maps, you can create hundreds or more ideas that are quickly generated, they are more original and effective.*
7) *Conducting discussions, debates. A mental map is prepared for each of the disputing parties, which helps to objectively and effectively explore the differences. As a result, a third mental map is created, on which joint conclusions, decisions, work results*

and the concessions made on the problem will be captured.

Assessment of mental maps takes into account the observance of the rules for compiling mental maps proposed by Tony Buzan:

- ❖ correct spelling of English words and phrases;
- ❖ correspondence of the used words, pictures to a given topic, problem;
- ❖ the presence of original ideas, design decisions;
- ❖ manifestations of students' creative activity, their personality.

The creation of this type of cards helps students develop creative and creative skills and, as has already been said, form a critical idea of the topic, identify the strengths and weaknesses of students' mental activity.

Example: Mind Mapping '*Strategies for Climate Change'* Essay Topic

The benefits of mind mapping are not limited to education; they can be useful in a commercial sphere as well. Mind mapping enables you to learn faster, communicate more efficiently and brainstorm more effectively, which is why ever more businesses are using tools like MindMeister (Online **Mind** Map Tool) to get the most out of their teams.

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