

## Drawing As a Means of Understanding Difficult Concepts

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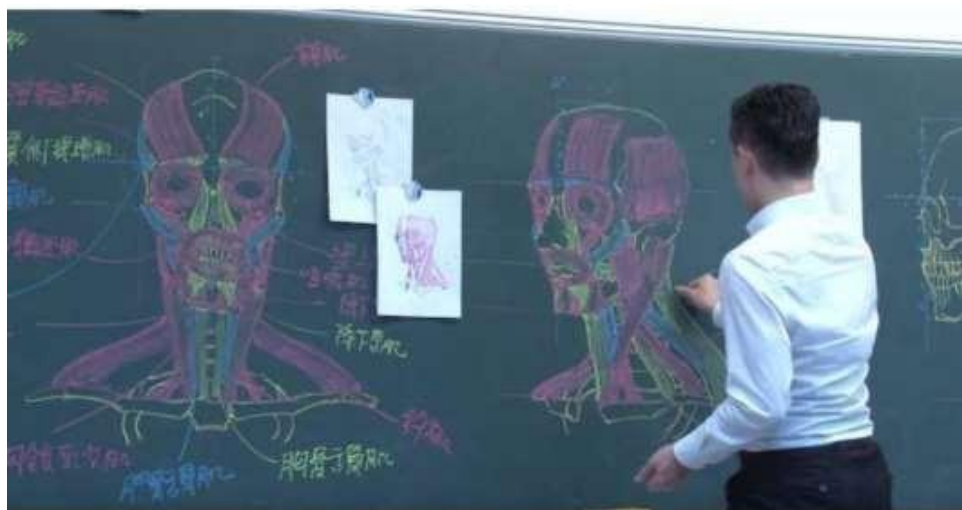
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**ABSTRACT:** Currently, every student has a tendency to complain that the learning process of biology and English language is somehow difficult. This article discusses the beneficial effects of painting in these two areas and effects of art on memory. It is believed that a collection of several valid reasons and examples will make this article more understandable.

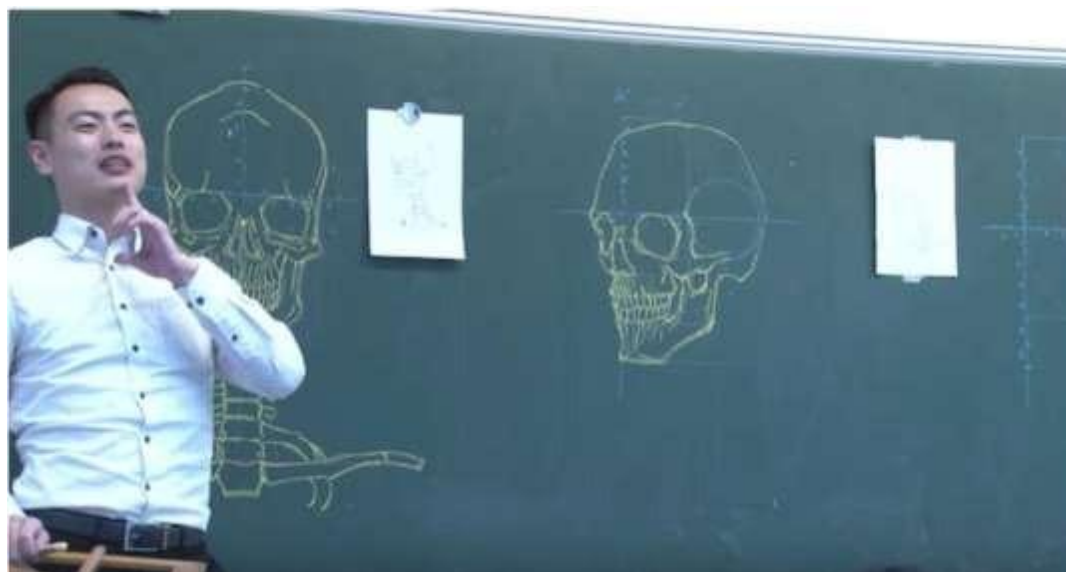
**KEYWORD:** hand- eye coordination, imagination, lexical chunks, vocabulary, memory.

There is a belief that drawing was created by human artists as a simplified form of interaction in the Stone Age. Another man understands what an ancient man was trying to say from his cave painting. This process is still ongoing. Even today, early human painting samples such as found in a South African cave reveal and explain much about ancient world to scientists. What if we try to use this method in the education system? It is long been recognized that drawing is the most effective way of remembering what is being learned. Because drawing is a tactic that forces information to be received through multiple ways like kinesthetically, visually and semantically. In the process of painting, students improve their ability to work in a hand – eye coordination. Moreover, the more learners draw shapes or topic that need to be understood, the easier it is for them to color the shapes and feel what is it.

Can we imagine the possibility of teaching the most minuscule inner intricacies of the human body by the help of simple material: chalk? As conscious beings, each of us should refrain from responding this question with an uncomplicated « No ». Because the curious Taiwanese illustrator and instructor Chuan – Bin Chung [2] was able to answer this question with the lectures that he teaches his students. Chuan- Bin Chung was cautious to explain the full skeletal structure of human body, from the muscles of the face to the foot by the help of chalkboard drawing. By this way, he is encouraging his students to develop their abilities in biology and art equally. Chuan - Bin Chung strongly believes that the biggest losses for students in learning process are to study only theoretical information from pictures in books and to addicted to the books.

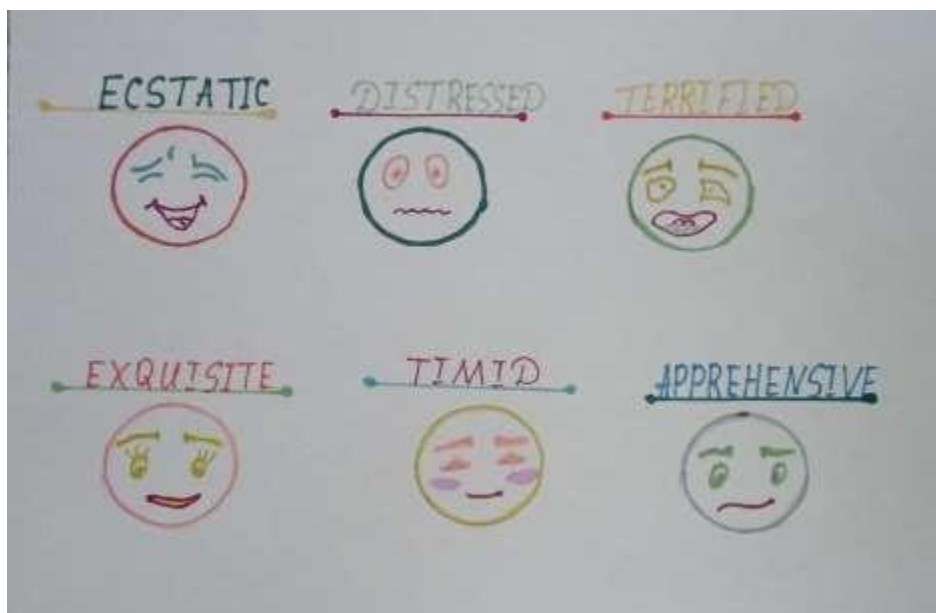


Chuan – Bin Chung in the classroom



«Yes, we have a textbook. But we do not read it, we draw it. Students, majoring in this area, cannot learn by just reading the pictures in books. Instead, we learn while drawing something in my classes, students have to draw what I am demonstrating on the chalkboard», Chuan – Bin Chung explained his teaching way.

We know that we have always struggle to remember the names of body parts or some difficult words that we should learn in English which can be forgotten easily. It is clear that the strategy used by Taiwanese teacher for biology can also be useful for English language learners. Creative and imagination are the main principles of language learning. Art can be the basic point of developing imagination and visualizing students' mind for quicker and effective study. As an example, drawing is more productive way of exploring and increasing vocabularies in the English classrooms. While teaching new lexical chunks or vocabularies to learners, do not let them to write down words in their notebooks, instead, ask them to draw them as a picture to represent the words. Then they can tell why they chose this particular way for painting new lexicons. While learning language, they can use their physical, visual sights in one field of learning. Here a simple drawing activity to learn by heart new words that is arduous to remember:



Those pictures describes the several emotions that people have by drawing various emojis. Students exactly know these emotional states by remembering the shapes and conditions that they drew.

In 2016 the Department of psychology at the University of Waterloo[3] specifically looked at drawing as a way to enhance memory. Participants were asked to paint words like «apple» that were prepared beforehand. 40 seconds were given them to draw the image of the words and write it again. Then they were asked to recall as many words as they can. They study illustrated that the painting words dominated over all other alternatives in memory. That is, they have the characteristics of being preserved more in our memory. And it can boost our memory too.

Some people have a strong belief that learning by drawing is not crucial. That is true that there are disparate people who receive and comprehend arduous concepts in different ways. But there is also another side that the most innovative strategy for making study easier and vibrant. For example, after reading, students should draw a picture of what they understood from reading. This way can be cherished by students. Moreover, 100 percent of painting skills are not required during the learning process. The most vital thing is to simplify learning in a creative way.

It can be seen as a very surprising phenomenon that painting which was considered as a tool of conversation in ancient times, is being used as a way of learning in the modern age of technology. But current special experiments illustrate that it is not only useful for learning but also it can boost memory by memorizing shapes and images. «Drawing is the basis of everything in my work. Everything comes from the drawing», said Maggi Hambling[4]. According to Maggi Hambling, drawing is the beginning of everything and also of education. In my perspective, drawing is same as writing, only one difference is instead of words, the pictures are used. And also it is a part of the process of acknowledging difficult concepts that makes them fun.

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