

25 WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR TEACHING



ELT BUZZ
TEACHING RESOURCES



25 Ways To Improve Your Teaching



Teacher development doesn't stop when you get your qualifications or diploma. It is a journey and a constant ability to improve what you do in the classroom given a particular set of circumstances. It's transactional in nature and a constantly moving and rocking boat.

However, no matter the teaching environment, there are certain fundamentals that good teachers have at their disposal and use to foster student learning and meet lesson objectives. Here's our list of 25 of the best things teachers can do to improve student learning outcomes.

- 1. Get to know your students!** Make it personal, connect the curriculum to their lives.
- 2. Engage the “ego”.** Promote pride. Give ALL students success. Meaning ...
- 3. Keep it simple!** Build from simple to complex.
- 4. Practice don't preach.** Show and model. You, reading a book during break teaches “reading” more than any lesson. Meaning ...
- 5. Share yourself.** Teaching is personal. If you don't share some of your life, they won't. CARE and show you care.
- 6. Make students think!** It doesn't have to be Jeopardy but get them learning other things besides language.

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**TEACHER
MODE**

7. Give students responsibility. Good teachers have students doing most of the prep and work.

8. Go slow. “Slow teaching” will be the new “in” thing in the future, believe it or not! Why? It works! Education is no longer about content but about digestion.

9. Provide structure. Students need to know what you will do during each part of the lesson. Systems are good!

10. Use hooks! Engage students at the beginning of lessons. Great teachers teach inductively. Whole to the parts.

11. Have an open door policy. Teach openly and share openly with colleagues. We are all learning and developing.

12. Use the whole classroom. It is your home, use all parts. Get students out of their seats using the space, the board.

13. Pow wow. Make it a point to have a conference with a student. They need that one on one.

14. Color things up. Use pictures/photos! Use real props. Context is everything and video/photos provide it in spades.

15. Promote community. You are a family and support each other. Nurture that with a name, an identity. Meaning ...

16. Use student names as much as possible when talking to them. Names light up the brain and foster learning. It's true!

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17. Teaching is acting. Don't be yourself but be whoever it takes to get students motivated and learning.

18. Give students control. Let them be the teacher! For example, why shouldn't students lead the class in TPR exercises? Why not make your classroom more like a sandbox than an assembly line?

19. Don't be afraid to "talk teaching" in the staff room. Share what you are doing with other teachers. This will transfer into the classroom.

20. Record student achievement/work. Make portfolios, keep records and examples, display their work. You have to know A to get to Z.

21. Get "off the beaten path". Take detours. Look for teachable moments. Connect the content to reality at every opportunity.

22. Teach students, not the subject! Learn more about differentiation and treat each student as "special". Study up on how special educators approach learning.

23. Be holistic. Teach language – don't teach "writing" or "reading" etc... The whole English language is the true curriculum.

24. Have style. Each teacher must find their own "way" and "manner". It takes time but discover and nurture this and make it your core.

25. Have a philosophy. You need a "why" to bear the inevitable almost any "how" of a classroom. Read books, talk to others, write out a journal. Great teachers are reflective about their job.



Teacher Reflection

What are your strengths as a teacher?

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Which of these tips resonated most with you?

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Which of these tips did you disagree with?

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What could you improve in your own teaching?

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