



ESL Teaching Tips

1. Use TPR and Props!

Demonstrate TPR throughout the class:

- ✓ Use **Props** that support the overall lesson objectives (whiteboard, letters, puppet, etc.).
- ✓ Use **body language**. (e.g. Mimic a monkey when explaining the word 'Monkey'; Gesture a circle with your fingers when teaching the word 'Circle'; Cup your ear when asking the students to repeat/answer you; Point to your mouth when pronouncing new words.)

2. Be Presentable

- ✓ Wear clean, neat, and appropriate **clothes** without any lettering or distracting pattern.
- ✓ Decorate your **background** with letters, pictures, etc. Create an uncluttered, designated area which is optimized for both teaching and learning.
- ✓ Maintain an appropriate **distance** from the camera, make sure the camera angle is front-facing and that you are clearly and easily visible during class time.
- ✓ Make sure the **lighting** is balanced and allows the student to clearly see the teacher, background, and teaching tools.

3. Speak Slowly and Clearly

- ✓ Speak **slowly and clearly** enough so that students who barely know English can understand you, and repeat yourself when necessary.
- ✓ Use **simplified** instructions and vocabulary (e.g. Use "Read after me" instead of "Repeat"). Make sure that you give students the best possible chance to understand and interact with you.

4. Attitude

The teacher needs to demonstrate appropriate attitude:

- ✓ Be **energetic, enthusiastic and encouraging**. Don't forget to greet, introduce yourself and smile during the classes.
- ✓ Be **patient**. Make sure to give the student ample time to respond to your questions, this will help with building their confidence. There's no need to rush the students into answering, and avoid consistently interrupting them.

5. 40:60 Rule

Ideally, the student should be speaking for 60% of the class. The teacher should be speaking for the other 40%.

- ✓ Encourage the student to **read** independently. Attempt to have students speak in **full sentences** appropriate of their level. (lower level students may not be able to use full sentences, but you should still encourage them to do so).
- ✓ Ask **open-ended questions**. e.g. "What is this?" "What do you see?"
- ✓ **Extend** on content when the student shows extended capability or when there is spare time.

6. Knowledge Reinforcement

- ✓ When teaching new words or sentences, **repeat** those words and sentences at least 3 times.
- ✓ Listen closely for any errors and **correct** as needed in a positive manner (constructive criticism, feedback, corrected repetition etc.). This includes synthetic phonics, grammar, syntax, diction, etc.