

Cool!

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Cool Tips  
for Teachers

Kids



# Cool Tips for Teachers

- ⚙️ Some students ask so many questions that they do not try to solve problems independently first. Encourage students to look for solutions themselves if possible, using their books, their notes or a dictionary. Beyond this, students can ask a classmate. Keep in mind that the problem solving skills will probably serve the student longer than any answer that you give.
- ⚙️ Correct students in a way that is clear but also respectful. Students should understand that mistakes help them learn. Most of all, encourage students to correct their own mistakes whenever they can.
- ⚙️ Create routines for the beginning of class. It helps students to transition from their native language and from activities earlier in the day. As part of your routine, you can ask the day and date, ask about the weather and give a fact about today: *Today is (Albert Einstein)'s birthday.*
- ⚙️ Students learn a lot of things at school, but to be successful, they should learn outside of class as well. Set up a regular time for students to present new words or expressions that they learned from books, TV or films. Assign different students for each sharing time.
- ⚙️ Students' language abilities are not constant. If a student is nervous or tired, he or she might have difficulty with even easy language tasks. Be patient with students and help them to understand anything they are having trouble with. Try to explain things in different ways and make sure students understand that it is OK to make mistakes.
- ⚙️ Students often translate words from their native language into English and vice versa. While this has some benefit, it takes too much time for students to do whenever they want to communicate. Encourage students to associate new words with pictures or ideas rather than translations.
- ⚙️ While the Teacher's Book provides an outline and suggestions for lesson material, it is also important to keep a register of brief notes about each class. You can write a summary of class objectives and materials used, any additional homework given and a note on how the class went. Use this information for helping students who are absent, for improving a lesson the second time around, and for identifying techniques that work especially well for you and your students.
- ⚙️ Involving students in classroom chores helps them to feel proud of their class and see the value of helping. Some classroom chores include: distributing materials, erasing the board, writing the homework assignment on the board, helping with attendance and helping with games. Assignments can be daily, weekly or monthly. Write the chore names on brightly coloured index cards and offer or assign them as students enter the room. Promote the chores by

- giving a special privilege to helpers, such as leaving first at the end of class or getting to choose the teams for the next game.
- ⚙️ As you prepare students for exams, always make sure to keep them focused on the things that they know and are confident about. Be prepared to direct students to pay more attention to spelling, to remember words that they do not use often and to practise the grammar structures in context. With confidence, time to prepare and a few personalised tips, students will be ready to show what they have learned during the year.
  - ⚙️ Encourage students to keep a journal in English. They only need to spend a few minutes every day writing down their thoughts. This will help them to keep their English fresh and to learn words related to their interests. They can write about their favourite sports teams, things they want to do, or cool things they did recently.
  - ⚙️ At the beginning of the course, help students reflect on what they want to improve in English. Suggest ways to achieve their goals: *read five minutes every day, make a list of words you want to learn and check it regularly, and so on.*
  - ⚙️ Show interest in your students: find out about them. Ask them about their opinions and encourage them to share their experiences.
  - ⚙️ Vary the way you group students. Group them according to their interests, level, experiences, etc. Encourage them to sit in different places every class so that they work with different students. Enrich your teacher-talk by putting written prompts on the board in the form of keywords. This helps weaker listeners and stimulates the students who are linguistically more aware.
  - ⚙️ Explain to students that they can sometimes deduce the meaning of a word in a text by reading words around it. Sometimes the context of the reading text can help them understand a word. They should try doing that before using a dictionary.
  - ⚙️ Get early finishers to check their answers and to help their classmates.
  - ⚙️ As you give feedback, focus on the language that students will learn and remember, not only on the correct answers.
  - ⚙️ Check answers in a variety of ways. Try to make it fun and different to keep students involved. Elicit complete sentences, get students to say and spell vocabulary words, have students compare answers with a friend or invite volunteers to write answers on the board.
  - ⚙️ Get students to listen to and respect one another's ideas.

⚙ To get students' attention while you explain the instructions, vary your technique and position. For example, you can give the instructions from the back of the classroom sometimes.