

An Introduction to Teaching English Language Learners

This course will take you on a fascinating exploration of what it means to be a teacher of English Language Learners, how to understand who your students are and the needs they have, and how to choose the most appropriate materials and activities for your classroom. You'll learn how you can choose and fine-tune the principles that exactly fit your teaching situation.

You'll begin with an exploration of how English is different from and similar to other languages and how these differences affect teaching other subjects. Next, you'll learn about methods for understanding your students' unique needs. You'll then read about several general language-teaching principles.

In the second half of the course, you'll examine reasons why students benefit from learning grammar and explore methods for picking the right activities to aid in their study. You'll then move on to a discussion of why writing is such a particular challenge for language learners and what you can do to help them overcome it. You'll conclude the course with an overview of effective assessment design, administration, and scoring.

Course Objectives

Module 1

- Discover how English is different from and similar to your students' native tongues and how English language instruction differs from teaching other subjects, like mathematics, history, or biology.

- Explore the many roles teachers play in the classroom, as well as how society's expectations, the classroom context, a teacher's personality, and student needs shape them.

Module 2

- Understand who your students are and how their age, motivation, ability level, and reasons for studying English influence how you will teach them English.
- Learn about the methods that have been used to teach English, and understand what their various limitations are.

Module 3

- Learn about a number of general language-teaching principles you can use to guide your choice of classroom activities.
- Discover different ways to select and teach words and phrases that are especially useful for your students, and get to know the lexical approach.

Module 4

- Understand what grammar is, why it is important to teach, and how you can select activities that will help your students learn grammatical patterns with competence and confidence.
- Examine listening and speaking skills while exploring what you can do to help learners communicate more effectively in English.

Module 5

- Examine reading skills and study various techniques to help your learners improve their comprehension and reading speed.
- Understand why writing is the most challenging ability for language learners, and learn how to select appropriate tasks and topics to help your students compose written works more effectively.

Module 6

- Learn basic terms and common techniques for assessment and testing and how to measure students' progress in English.
- Develop a clearer sense of how to become a more effective and reflective teacher and see the importance of continuing your professional growth now and throughout your career.

Course Syllabus

Module 1

- Introduction
- How Linguists Look at English
- Who is a “Native Speaker” of English
- How English Language Teaching Is Different
- Summary
- What is Teaching?
- Roles and Expectations
- ESL and EFL
- Four Teachers and Four Perspectives
- Different Styles of Classroom Interaction
- Knowledge Check

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-Module Reflection
Module 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who Are You Teaching? • The Effects of Age in General • The Particular Effects of Age • Why Are Your Students Studying English? • Students in Class: Similarities and Differences • Popular Teaching Methods • The Direct Method and the Grammar Translation Method • Modern Methods • The Humanistic Revolution • Limitations of Methods • Summary • Knowledge Check • Post-Module Reflection
Module 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction • What is Principled English Language Learners • Eight Principles from Murphy and Byrd • Choosing Your Own Principles • How Do You Teach Vocabulary? • Three Limitations of Teaching Only Referential Meaning • Teaching Vocabulary Using Word Chains, Rhyming, and Expressions • Knowledge Check • Post-Module Reflection
Module 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How Do You Teach Grammar? • Teaching Grammar Through Listening • How Do You Teach Listening and Speaking?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teaching Grammar Through Listening• Top-Down Grammar Teaching• Teaching Grammar in Context• How Do You Teach Listening and Speaking?• The Importance of Stress in English Pronunciation• Four Kinds of Listening and Speaking• Teaching Listening• Knowledge Check• Post-Module Reflection
Module 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How Do You Teach Reading?• Writing and Spelling Systems• Teaching Reading Subskills• Types of Reading Classes• How Do You Teach Writing?• The Transcription of Spoken English• The Vocabulary and Grammar of Writing• Characteristics of Good Writing• Teaching Writing• Knowledge Check• Post-Module Reflection
Module 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How Do You Assess Your Students?• Assessment• Testing Terminology• Designing, Administering, and Scoring Tests• The Use and Abuse of Testing• The Abuse of Test Scores

- How Can You Become a More Reflective Teacher?
- Teaching Knowledge
- Teaching Efficiency
- Teaching Insight
- Professional Development
- Summary
- Knowledge Check
- Post-Module Reflection