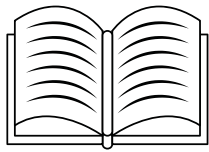




Teachers can do a lot to help their students understand the spoken English they use in the class. Here are 10 strategies you can immediately use in your classroom teaching to support student understanding.

1. **Wait Time.** Students need time to process a second language. Pause after asking a question or issuing a statement or instructions. Even count to 5 so students have time to think and comprehend.
2. **Comprehensible Input.** Filter and adjust your language to the level of your students to help them understand and acquire the language.
3. **Speaking Speed.** Slow down your classroom speech by pausing at length between thoughts and sentences. Don't speak slower and use "unnatural" English and what is often referred to as "teacher talk."
4. **Non-Verbal Communication.** Teachers help provide context and support the understanding of spoken English with body language, especially facial expression.
5. **Writing.** Support your instructions and speech with written text, either on the board or on paper. Students can refer to this during or after and it will help them to understand.
6. **Student Strategies.** Teach students strategies for requesting clarification or getting help when they struggle to understand classroom English, for example having them take notes for review, reference a dictionary or supplemental aide, or get help from a classmate.
7. **Visual Support.** Whenever possible provide images and diagrams that will support the English spoken in the class.
8. **Comprehension Checks.** Check students often for their understanding. Don't just ask, "Do you understand?" or "Are you with me?" Rather, get students to repeat the language they heard or summarize what was said.
9. **Repetition.** Use the same set phrases and language cues during instruction, so students can understand them quickly and focus on classroom language related to content.
10. **Affective Factors.** Keep the classroom atmosphere "light." Laugh at mistakes, encourage risk taking and the spontaneous use of language.



READING STRATEGIES



Reading strategies is the broad term used to describe the planned and explicit actions that help readers translate print to meaning. They help improve decoding and comprehension and are essential for ELLs and beginning and struggling readers.



Prediction

Using clues in the text to think about what will happen next or what the author will discuss next.



Skimming

Glance through the text and learn the main idea(s)



Connecting

Linking prior knowledge and information in texts.



Infer

Reach conclusions about what the text is saying.



Scanning

Look for specific details in a text.



Reflection

Analyzing and making judgements about texts and reading strategies. Allow students think time.



3-2-1

3 things learned, 2 things that interesting, and 1 question.



Comparing.

Note similarities and differences between texts.



Visualizing.

Create mental images to connect with the text.



What's your own strategy to get students improving their reading?



Summarizing.

Identifying, recording and writing key ideas in your own words.



Remix.

Take what you read and make your own version.

LISTENING STRATEGIES

There are many strategies that students can apply to help them understand before, during and after listening. Here are our top 10.



Predict

Before listening think about what you know about the topic. What does the title suggest to you? What's the context for the listening?



Vocabulary

What words do you know related to the topic? List them and listen for them.



Focus

While listening don't try to understand every word. Focus on the general meaning of the speaker. The gist.



Notes

If possible, jot down notes while listening. It will help you remember and retain information.



Relax

Nervousness will inhibit your listening ability. Relax, let the words and meaning flow into you and through you.



Reflect

After listening, think about the topic and what was said. Did you get the main meaning and important points?



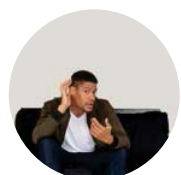
Compare

Before listening you made some predictions. Remember those and compare - were any correct?



Review

Take a look over your notes or jot down all you understood. Did you catch everything, the main points spoken?



Repeat

If you really didn't understand the main points, listen again. Focus on what you may have missed. Or ask the speaker to repeat what they said.



Assess

Still having problems catching the meaning of the speaker? Note your main problems and look for and work on a solution to improve.