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EFFECTIVE WAYS OF TEACHING ENGLISH ONLINE

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Abstract: This resource aims to provide some strategies or activities for ESL teachers to teach online much more classes effectively by equipping with online tools, platforms and resources, encouraging them to engage, interactive and interesting.

Keywords: online language teaching, physically distanced, online tools, platforms and resources, online teaching-learning equipment

We live in a world where technology has changed the way we live as well as the way that we learn and teach. When it comes to teaching a foreign language, there is a whole new world at your disposal to help enrich your students' learning experience. Students learn languages best when they can engage with the material in interactive ways that immerses them in the experience. This is now more possible than ever due to technology and an increasingly connected world.

Any mode of teaching, either online teaching or in-person teaching, has to be effective, engaging and interesting. Moreover, second language or foreign language teaching should be much more collaborative and interactive as language learning itself is for interaction or communication. In online EFL/ESL classes, the teacher and students are physically distanced, which might create certain restrictions teaching learning activities that could be done in in-person classes. However, if the teacher and the students have learned the basic knowledge, ideas and skills for online language teaching, and if they are equipped with online tools, platforms and resources, the online English classes can be much more effective, engaging, interactive and interesting.

The first important thing for effective online language teaching is access and skills to use the online teaching-learning equipment, platforms and tools. Besides, the teachers should learn the key skills of online teaching. They should keep smiling while teaching with the video on. The teacher should give priority to good rapport building with students using various ideas, like; using their names and personalizing activities, using emojis to encourage them, interacting with them regularly and listening to the students' interests and voices. It means the students should be engaged in learning actively and effectively. To maximize students' engagement in learning, an English teacher should practice teaching differently, assess differently and interact differently.

To bring varieties of taste in teaching, interacting and assessing in online classes, English teachers can use many interactive digital learning tools, activities and resources. Interactive digital learning tools, like; Quizizz, Kahoot, Google Docs, Breakout rooms, Playposit, etc. can make the online language class interactive, collaborative and interesting. Similarly, fun games or activities, like; Secret Word Guessing, Finding Somethings around You, PowerPoint Games, etc. can make the learners active and engaged in online language classes. Similarly, the use of online language resources, like; YouTube, TED talks, VOA, Lyrics Training, ELLLO, Breaking News English, Cambridge Assessment English, and so many other is more possible and much more effective in online classes than in in-person classes.

Some effective online ESL teaching strategies or activities can be listed as follows:
- Set clear learning goals
- Plan your lessons just like F2F lessons
- Teach differently to engage students

- Assess their learning differently to engage students
- Interact with students differently to engage them
- Manage your online classes effectively
- Use gestures keeping your video on
- Build good rapport with students (use their names and personalize activities, keep smiling during class, use emojis to encourage them and listen to the students' interests and voices)
- Provide ongoing feedback
- Use fun games or activities like; Quizizz, PowerPoint Games, Online Round Table, Scavenger Hunt game, etc.
- Involve students in collaborative activities (use Google docs, Break out rooms, Google Jamboard, Edmodo, etc.)
- Use varieties of resources like; Voice of America (VOA), American English Website, Readability Test Tools, YoGlish, etc.
- Form supporting learning community, like; messenger group, Google classroom.

Every teacher can use Google Apps for collaboration with students. This might come as a surprise entry into this list but Google's app suite is spectacular when it comes to the ability to distribute lessons and have students collaborate. Teaching a foreign language online is made much easier by the tools that Google is providing. Here are just a few of their apps that can be used in foreign languages teaching.

Google Docs - Lets you send and receive written assignments, syllabi, resource lists, instructions and more.

Slides - Create PowerPoint style presentations, can be used by teachers or to have students create a presentation on a subject related to the language they are learning in that language.

YouTube - Create video content for teaching foreign language lessons to your students that they can access from anywhere. The students could also create videos to send to teachers for projects and lessons.

There is also Google Classroom, which provides a robust teaching and learning environment. Teachers might find some of the other apps in their suite fit their uses too. These tools are flexible, free, and accessible to all, which makes them even more valuable.

There are many fantastic ways to use entertainment to immerse students, and the teacher's imagination is the only limit to the possibilities. In the last few years, Zoom has become a pretty big part of many of our lives. That being said, while there are other video meeting programs available, a majority of people will be most familiar with Zoom. For this reason, Zoom has become the top choice for live video and makes our list. If the class has other preferred methods, then those are all viable too.

Some lessons are best done face to face, but that is not always possible. Foreign languages teaching benefits from the use of live video due to the fact that seeing words spoken, the way the mouth moves, and body language all are important to how learn to communicate. Being able to gather a class on camera for lessons gives the ability to include the physical action of the lessons, even while students might not be able to make it to the classroom. The flexibility this option gives when teaching foreign language allows more people to learn face to face than ever before. This is fantastic for students in rural areas, with disabilities, or far from their teacher of choice.

To sum up, online EFL classes can be made a successful practice if the teacher has the knowledge, ideas and skills of online language teaching and making them interactive and interesting by making the students actively engaged. For this, the teacher needs access and skills to use the interactive online tools, platforms and resources besides all

the other skills and characteristics needed in in-person classes as well.

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