

# ESOL Tutor Workshop

## SEPT 2023:

### Teaching beginners



# 13 Fundamentals

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Credit: Chris Westergaard of [the Language House](#)

Two videos I recommend:

*How to Teach Beginners English: 13 Fundamentals You Need to Use*

*How to Teach English to Beginners: Teaching Vocabulary Tips*

Vocab tips: TTT = teacher talking time

L1 = the student's first language    L2 = the language they're learning

# 1. Know the goal of the lesson

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Not just “To learn vocabulary for the parts of the body”  
but rather what the student will be able to DO at the end of the lesson.

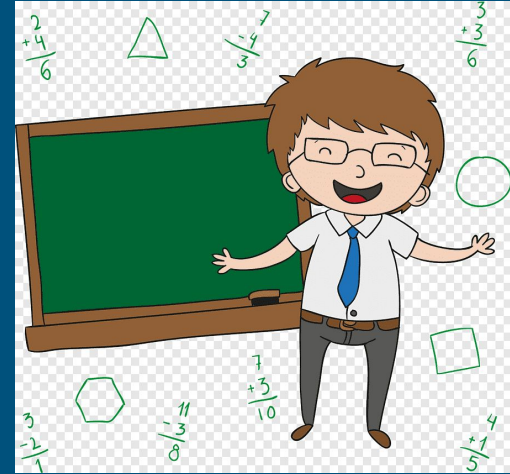
*Example: “The student will be able ask and answer questions about symptoms of illness or injury.”*

## 2. Turn on your charisma!

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Smiles, gestures, playfulness

This will ease your students' anxiety.



## 3- 5. Assume the student knows no English

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- Minimize TTT (teacher talking time)
- Don't use language that's not in the lesson
- Build up slowly from words to phrases to sentences and questions

## 6. Use visuals

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- Realia (props), pictures, drawings, miming/gestures
- Don't *explain* using language the student doesn't know



## 7. *Elicit* from the student

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Elicit = to draw out or evoke a response

- Makes the class more active/dynamic/interesting/effective
- Can show you what they already know (at beginning of lesson)
- A way to drill (during the practice part of the lesson)

# 8. Slow down your speech

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(but keep it natural)

- Speak in chunks:
  - How are you      today?
  - What      are      you wearing?
  - Do you like      this weather?





## 9. Teach less

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- No more than 10 new vocabulary words
- No more than 3-4 new statements/questions
- One *Ventures* lesson

# 10. Teach chunks and patterns

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Chunk = common phrase taught holistically (without deconstruction of grammar)

Examples:    How are you?

              Have a good day!

              ¡Que le vaya bien!

# 11. Provide lots of error correction

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- Builds confidence
- Much easier to learn it right the first time than to unlearn or re-learn it later!

## 12. Teach contractions from the start

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I am = I'm

- Students will hear them outside of class and need to understand them
- Makes their English sound more natural

# 13. Provide LOTS of drill & practice

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- #1 mistake new teachers make: not enough drill & practice
- 4 layers of 'knowing' a word:
  - Identifying it visually
  - Identifying it aurally
  - Producing it visually (writing it)
  - Producing it orally (saying it)
- Use the *Ventures* supplemental activities