

FIVE ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO TEACH ENGLISH

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The teaching of English as a foreign language is an important aspect that in recent decades has involved many countries of the European Union (European Commission, 2011; OECD, 2013). In parallel the development of Community and national policies on language learning, the pedagogical and didactic reflection on these themes has given attention to and how to teach a second or more foreign languages effectively. This requires upstream a specific competence of the teachers in the design of the curriculum, which must be taken care of with attention and methodological rigour in both initial and in-service training (Calvani, Menichetti, 2015; Paparella, 2009).

The curriculum, therefore, becomes a reason for breaking with and criticising the pedagogical-school tradition centred on erudition, acculturation, transmission of knowledge to give voice to intentionality, customization and flexibility of the educational paths. The formative value of the curriculum is based on the dialectic relationship that the child, as an epistemic subject, establishes with knowledge, originating a process of "acquisition of form" that is peculiar, personal, located, contextualized. As Maragliano and Vertecchi (1978) also argued, the curriculum does not refer to the "neutral definition of educational contents or solutions", learning techniques", but takes into account the complexity of the conditions affecting the teaching-learning processes, so that the social dimensions must be taken into account from the design stage, psychological and contextual than the scientific-cultural and institutional ones within of which the training process takes place.

But in spite of the curriculum's restrictions teachers should assimilate with

modern tendencies and find new and interesting ways to inspire students and to encourage them to give their best, especially when it comes to teaching a foreign language.

Today, fortunately, it is possible to use various tools to make the lessons more interesting. Here are 5 alternative ways to teach English and motivate your students to improve every day.

The first approach is involving smartphones and tablets into the lesson. Do your students take their smartphones to class? Well, use them to your advantage. For example, you could invite your students to use their devices in the classroom or at home to record themselves while they speak English. In this way, you can take a closer look at their pronunciation and, by listening again, they can become more aware of their mistakes. In addition, students could use their phones to download audiobooks or watch English-language TV series and movies, on which you can then focus your lessons, thus developing a learning system that combines traditional lessons with a more interactive and engaging method for students. Using interactive whiteboards in the classroom to stimulate students for active participation in the lesson, and an online platform where students can access from their smartphone, which contains interactive questions, listening exercises and exercises that allow them to consolidate what they have learned in the classroom.

The second way is the Art of Conversation in English. Why not spend one or two hours a week on a conversation club? In this case, the key to success is letting the students choose the topic of the conversation. Use pictures, music, or any other type of material to support and stimulate the conversation. This way, your students will get used to speaking in English and become more confident.

The third is social media approaching. Social media is a global phenomenon that is widespread among young people and affects all countries and languages. So why don't you use social media to bring the real world into your classroom? You could create an online group to bring your students together and communicate with them in a more innovative way. The language used on sites like Twitter and Facebook can be useful for teaching new

ways of saying and acronyms in English, such as "GTG". "and "by the way". This is a fun way to create a relaxed atmosphere and encourage students to use English for communication.

The fourth is going Out of the Box

Group work and role-playing games have been used for a long time to teach English, how to make a step forward? Take Jason Levine, also known as Fluency MC, a New York-based English teacher who uses rap songs to teach his students new vocabulary and grammar, as an example. You could ask your students which are their favorite singers and devote part of your lessons to analyzing the lyrics of the songs, you can be sure that they will really be interested in the lesson.

And the fifth is teaching English in Virtual Worlds

Language learners of all ages are immersing themselves in virtual worlds to learn English. You could encourage your students to create an avatar that travels through a virtual world like Second Life, where they can interact with other users. In addition, much of the communication is text-based, so this virtual world is a very useful tool to strengthen their writing skills.

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