NORQUEST COLLEGE

Making Grammar Easy to Teach

Alberta Routes

Tip Sheet 20

Steps to Teaching Grammar Successfully

Plan

- Identify which grammar points learners find challenging.
- Sequence activities to incorporate grammar into meaningful communication.
- Prepare examples to show how the target structure is used in real-life contexts.

Implement

- Clearly explain how the grammar structure works.
- Use examples to highlight patterns and common usage.
- Include fun activities to help learners practice the new grammar.

Assess

- Check how learners use grammar in speaking and writing.
- Provide feedback and encourage peer learning.
- Adjust your lessons based on their progress.

Reflect

- Think about what worked and what didn't in your grammar lessons.
- Update your materials and try new approaches based on feedback.
- Look for workshops or resources to develop your teaching skills.

Encourage Use

- Give students chances to use the grammar outside the classroom.
- Suggest activities like journaling, speaking with friends, or watching videos in English.
- Celebrate small successes to keep them motivated.

Tips for Teaching Grammar

Keep It Simple

- Don't rush to answer difficult grammar questions. Take your time to understand what learners need help with.
- Ask learners for examples, and figure it out together if needed. If you're unsure, follow up later with accurate information.

Make It Relevant

- Teach grammar as part of real-world language. For example, include it in tasks related to work, daily life, or study.

Use Examples

- Guide learners to spot grammar patterns by using examples.
- Encourage them to explore how grammar is used rather than memorizing rules.

Practice, Practice, Practice

- Use exercises where learners can try out the grammar in speaking or writing.
- Balance controlled activities (e.g., filling blanks) with open tasks like conversations.

Supportive Feedback

- Correct gently and encourage learners to keep trying. Help them notice and fix their mistakes on their own.

The Communicative Approach

The **Communicative Approach** is a teaching method that focuses on helping students use language in real-life communication. It emphasizes practical use over memorization, encouraging learners to interact, express ideas, and communicate meaningfully.

1. **Show Grammar in Action**: Use real-life examples to help students see how grammar works naturally in communication. For example, show how people use a particular structure in conversations, emails, or other real-world contexts.

2. **Explain Simply**: Provide clear and simple explanations of the grammar point. Link it to how it is used in everyday situations, so students can understand why it is important.
3. **Practice with Support**: Start with controlled exercises where students can practice using the grammar step-by-step. These activities help them build confidence while minimizing mistakes.
4. **Real-Life Use**: Move to tasks like role-plays, group discussions, or writing activities where students apply the grammar in practical ways. Focus on communicating ideas clearly rather than being perfect.
5. **Helpful Feedback**: Give constructive feedback to guide students on improving both grammar accuracy and overall communication. Celebrate progress to keep students motivated and engaged.

Helpful Grammar Teaching Resources

Resource	Description
Basic English Grammar - Espresso English	A simple PDF guide covering essential grammar rules, including articles, verb tenses, and prepositions. Great for beginners.
Engvid.com	Video grammar lessons
English with Stacy	Videos of grammar and listening lessons and exercises
Grammar Bank	Explanations and exercises
Grammar Bytes:	Grammar PowerPoints, videos, and exercises
Grammar Chants	The book describes what a chant is, why it's an effective activity, and Units 1-15 of sample chants and grammar practice exercises.
Alberta Routes Workshops	Provides training, mentoring, and resources for ESL instructors.

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