

USING ESL CLASSES EFFECTIVELY

First: Pray for Opportunities to Engage Internationals in Your Community

- Prayer is vitally important as we seek to engage those that have newly arrived.
- Pray for an attitude that demonstrates love, acceptance and grace.
- Pray that the Lord will open up opportunities to share about God's love and forgiveness as your relationship with them grows and matures.

Second: Begin to Evaluate Their Level of English Proficiency.

- As you begin to develop a relationship with an international, focus on getting to know him/her by asking simple questions.
- Begin to evaluate how well they speak and understand English. We divide proficiency into 4 levels: Pre-beginners, Beginners, Intermediate, and Advanced
- Understanding your student's proficiency level will be essential in helping you design what and how you will need to teach them.

Third: Preparing to Teach ESL

- You want your teaching location to be comfortable, quiet and relatively uninterrupted.
- Ask your students if there are specific things that they want to learn.
- It is your task to help them achieve their goal – to improve their English!
 - Make sure that you speak slowly enough for them to follow.
 - Communication involves both speaking and understanding.
 - Prioritize the mistakes and correct the most important ones.
- ESL is a joint activity. It takes two people working together towards one goal.
- Respect is the word that best describes the relationship between student and teacher.

Fourth: Students Are Never Too Old for Show-and-Tell.

- If you are teaching a group of students, you can help each student feel unique by inviting them to bring something to class that represents them.
- This helps them feel known and keeps them motivated to continue to work hard and continue to progress.

Fifth: If You Have a Group of Students, Assign Seats and Change Them Often.

- One way that you can help students interact more is by moving them around and having them get to know one another by asking and answering simple questions.
- As students have opportunities to get to know one another, they will also discover things they have in common and how they can become friends even though they are different.

Sixth: Simply Listen.

- Taking time to make small talk can help break down barriers to learning.
 - If we truly expect our students to learn with us, they will need to know that we care.
 - They also need opportunities to learn about each other, so they can build a community in which they can grow together as learners.
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