

# ESU Malaysia

## CREATIVE TEACHING TIPS

### INTRODUCTION

This summary aims to provide a basic coverage of clear simple thinking and teaching strategies to:

- (i) draw students to teachers
- (ii) improve classroom environment and discipline which will, in turn, assist with learning the main curriculum.

*The end result of this combination will be improved results and interest in the learning process.*

"Creative Teaching" has been formulated to complement any English Language teaching programme which reinforces the skills of students.

It is based on the conviction that the teaching of the language should be enjoyable to the teacher as well as to the students.

### BASIC CLASSROOM TEACHING SKILLS

#### A. Lesson Plan

\* Always have a general aim AND a specific aim.

General aim: what is to be achieved at the end of the programme.

Specific aim: what is to be achieved at the end of each lesson.

If the aim is not achieved---do not despair! Change teaching technique.

\* A well structured lesson is vital. Always have more content than what is required--be one step ahead of your students.

\* In order to be aware of what would interest students, think like a student.

\* Include a variety of activities in your lesson plan---teacher orientated, class, group, individual, quiet time. Variety encourages *intercommunication* (i.e. communication between persons).

\* Begin lessons in different ways to gain the interest of the class. This will eradicate boredom! A good lesson beginning most often has a good ending.

\*Begin with known knowledge before introducing new knowledge. This not only develops student confidence but also **teacher** confidence.

\* Good questioning technique makes a good lesson plan. *Frame questions to make students think rather than to get a one word answer (so avoid the yes/no! ).*

## **B. Classroom teaching**

\*Develop a confident **teaching** stance---students are able to "size" **teachers** within minutes of **teaching**.

\*Give respect to gain respect. Do not begin the lesson until everyone is attentive.

\*Use a **teaching** method/process, resources suitable to a specific class---keep in mind the needs of the students.

Keep in mind the size of the class.

\*Use resources with an aim in mind---too much is not the best.

\*Move around the classroom giving individual help/attention where/when it is required. This enables the **teacher** to develop subtle class control and discipline.

It also gives the **teacher** a chance to keep an eye on students who are not applying themselves to or concentrating on the set task.

\* Be in control yet be approachable.

\*Have a good knowledge of students. There will always be students who are extroverts and those who are introverts. There will be a tendency to get the students who constantly put up their hand to answer a question. .Involve both groups in the learning process.

\* Give praise when it is due. Excessive praise tends to lose its worth.

\*Develop a skill in correcting/reprimanding students without making them lose their confidence. *Weave around the incorrect answer, re question the student and extract the correct answer!*

\*Be aware of peer group pressure.

\*Use of verbal (voice, intonation, pauses, stress, emphasis) and non verbal (body language) features enhances a lesson and holds the interest of the students.

**\* Most importantly, be enthusiastic about your profession and **teaching**.**

### **C. Some classroom activities for an English lesson.**

- \*Games
- \*Flash cards
- \* Use of songs
- \* Crosswords
- \*Puzzles
- \*Boardgames
- \*Questionnaire--- after (i) watching a video clip, (ii) listening to a story
- \*Explaining and writing captions for cartoons
- \*Dramatising short scripts
- \*Writing a dialogue
- \*Miming
- \*Analysing a poster
- \*Formulating a game based on a class novel.
- \*Tongue twisters
- \*Nutty nursery rhymes
- \*Use of Figures of speech---metaphors, similes, idioms
- \*Ask students for ideas. It will be surprising what they can contribute.

### **D. Conclusion of lesson - Start doing this from the start.....**

- \* Try to share with the class, at the end, how the lesson went---the positives and negatives.
- \*Be brave! Ask the class for their comments---this will be of great help in the planning of the following lesson.
- \*Tell class what the next lesson will involve. Instruct them as to what they have to bring to class. If the above is done consistently, the class will automatically know what to expect at the start and end of each lesson.

**Remember---if the students like the activity, they will fully participate and LEARN MORE .**

**EVERYONE WILL ENJOY!**