

Supplementary Unit

35 top tips for your dassroom teaching



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- 1. Prepare your material thoroughly.
- 2. Use effective questioning techniques.
- 3. Arrive on time for your lessons.
- 4. Be yourself.
- 5. Organise your material before the lesson starts.
- 6. Be prepared to adapt rather than just blindly follow your plan.
- 7. Be enthusiastic.
- 8. Get to know your students' names quickly, and use them whenever possible.
- 9. Don't panic.
- 10. Continually encourage, but don't over-do it.
- 11. Seek help and advice from experienced colleagues.
- 12. Make your descriptions and explanations as visual as possible.
- 13. Don't talk unless you need to ("I'm going to walk to the board now").
- 14. Pace vourself.
- 15. Don't interrupt student activities; it is their talking time.
- 16. Plan your explanations/demonstrations; just because you understand an activity it doesn't mean you can tell someone how to do it.
- 17. Don't patronise your students; treat them with respect.
- $18. \ \ \, \text{Students bring a wealth of their own experience to the classroom; use it whenever you can.}$
- 19. Plan your board work, and take care what you put on it.
- 20. Vary the stimulus as often as possible.
- 21. Self evaluate your lessons; critically note down what works and what doesn't.
- 22. Seek evaluations from your students; they can be the best judges of the effectiveness of your teaching.
- 23. Make sure you know the operating procedures for all equipment.
- 24. Don't talk to the board.
- 25. Always try to open and close your lessons in a positive way.
- 26. Demonstrate visually rather than verbally.
- 27. Always give one copy of activity material between two even reading activities.
- 28. Monitor unobtrusively and continually during activities; note errors and don't interrupt.
- 29. Don't over or under correct.
- 30. Keep an eye on timings and adapt if needed.
- 31. Involve all students equally in your lessons.
- 32. Structure your activities and their explanations.
- 33. If using a CD or cassette, practice rewinding the tape or cuing the CD before the lesson.
- 34. Use reference material as a guide, not a bible.
- 35. Bear in mind that praise works wonders.
- 35. Be warm and friendly, and have fun!



