

Instructional Strategies for ESL Students Checklist

Checking students' comprehension of the content:

- Use sentence strips
- Set up dialogue journals between teacher and student
- Plan activities using role play and drama
- Use student reading logs
- Use Cloze exercises
- Write summaries
- Encourage students to write headlines
- Write character diaries
- Have students present information with illustrations, comic strips, or other visual representations
- Allow students to provide answers and explain processes instead of you telling them

Helping ESL students adjust to the classroom:

- State / display language, content and metacognitive objectives
- List instructions / process steps and review orally
- Present information in varied ways (oral, written, demonstrations, with tangible objects)
- Frequently summarize key points
- Repeat and paraphrase important terms
- Provide Word Wall with vocabulary for unit / chapter
- Have students maintain notebook
- Have student maintain learning log for metacognitive strategies
- Allow sufficient response time
- **Adjusting teaching style:**
- Develop a student centered approach
- Speak a little more slowly (not louder ☺), use shorter sentences, and avoid idioms
- Increase the percentage of inferential and higher order thinking questions
- Provide correction for language errors by modeling, not overt correction

- **Teaching a multi level class:**
- Use cooperative learning
- Incorporate peer tutoring
- Use the Writing Process
- Explicitly connect learning to students' knowledge and experience
- Take time to preview and explain new concepts and vocabulary before starting instruction
- Use questionnaires / interviews
- **Motivating students and providing background knowledge:**
- Use Semantic Webbing and graphic organizers
- Use Anticipation Reaction Guides
- Have students brainstorm, then record responses on overhead before starting lessons
- Use KWL charts
- Use realia, maps, photos, and manipulatives
- Do activities where students can interact and move around
- **Adapting ESL techniques to the content classroom:**
- Have students do hands-on activities
- Do demonstrations
- Use CDs, cassettes and videotapes with books
- Use a variety of groupings so that ESL students can interact with different classmates (not only the Spanish speaking ones!)
- Provide students with outline of lesson and questions that will be asked beforehand so they have an opportunity to process information and participate more readily
- The overhead projector is your best friend - use it every day to model highlighting text, identifying main ideas or new vocabulary or to show pictures.