



Top Ten Ways to Be a Great Language Teacher

- 10) Learn a second language yourself; if you already know one, keep it up! (in all of your free time)
- 9) Remember that L2 errors are a sign of growth, risk taking and hypothesis testing. Also, avoid insisting on English Only. Let students relax once in a while.
- 8) Keep affective filters low (for everyone).
- 7) Give students ample opportunity to negotiate meaning in groups; give students structured "roles" so that expertise changes.
- 6) Scaffold all lessons well. Don't begin with something too difficult...give a lot of support. Remember $i + 1$.
- 5) In teaching language (through content, texts) remember the following ideas regarding input
 - Use visuals and realia. Always try to move from the concrete to the abstract, from controlled to creative
 - Use gestures and body language
 - Speak clearly and pause often, but don't slow speech down unnaturally
 - Say the same things in different ways (3 times, 3 ways)
 - Write key words and ideas down.
 - Use overheads and charts whenever appropriate
 - Make frequent comprehension checks
 - Have students explain main concepts to one another working in pairs and groups
 - Keep oral presentations or reading assignments short. Collaborative activities are more effective than lectures or assigned readings
- 4) SHOW, DON'T TELL. Number one teacher sin: TOO MUCH TEACHER TALK
- 3) Keep informed about socioeconomic issues, cultural issues, linguistic developments, new ideas about bilingual education.
- 2) Remember: Reuse and Recycle materials...Milk it!
- 1) Know your students! Use authentic materials that are relevant to your students.