



EEI1304

English Classroom Management

Chapter 6

Encourage More Use of English





Should English teachers use L1 when teaching?

Advantages to knowing and (carefully) using your students' L1

respect

connect

reduce

It helps learners feel understood and supported.

Speaking your students' language – even minimally – shows _____ for their culture and helps you _____.

For learners who are anxious or have limited English proficiency (LEP), hearing a little of their own language can _____ stress and build confidence. Krashen and Terrell (1983) describe this as lowering the affective filter, which in turn makes learners more receptive.

(Taylor, 2025)



Should English teachers use L1 when teaching?

Advantages to knowing and (carefully) using your students' L1

instructions

It can aid classroom management and administration.

understanding

When explaining administrative procedures, test _____, or other critical matters, using L1 ensures _____.

comprehend

This is particularly important with low-level learners who lack the vocabulary to _____ instructions fully in English.

(Taylor, 2025)



Should English teachers use L1 when teaching?

The risks of overusing L1

forced

fluency

reduces

slows

It can undermine **/ˌɪn.də'mɪn/** immersion.

One of the key benefits of an English-only classroom is that students are _____ to **listen, think, and communicate** in English – which is critical for developing _____.

Overuse of L1 _____ the amount of meaningful L2 input students receive and _____ their progress.

(Taylor, 2025)



Should English teachers use L1 when teaching?

The risks of overusing L1

alienate

It can exclude others.

share

If you're teaching in a multilingual or mixed-nationality class, using the L1 of one group of learners can _____ others who don't _____ that language, and _____ the group dynamic.

disrupt

(Taylor, 2025)



Should English teachers use L1 when teaching?

A balanced approach

- Use your students' language sparingly in class – and only when it genuinely helps learners without undermining immersion.
- Make clear from day one that English is the language of the classroom.
- Always maintain your own English proficiency – read, write, and speak English at a high level daily.

(Taylor, 2025)



Techniques for Encouraging More Use of English

1. Paraphrasing
2. Prompting
3. Asking for Clarification
4. Eliciting
5. Simplifying
6. Translating
7. Displaying Classroom Language



(Taylor, 2025)



Paraphrasing or Reformulating

Using different words to communicate what you read or heard, or what someone said (Gorman & Norris, 2019).

For example:

Professor:	I appreciate your participation today.
Student:	Excuse me, Professor. What do you mean?
Professor:	I am saying that I thank you all for your wonderful job



Prompting your students

Asking a question or giving a clue, or writing the first letter(s) on the board (Gorman & Norris, 2019)

For example:

Professor:	Can you tell a word that means calm and very quiet?
Joe:	(Put his hand up) Is it peaceful, Professor?
Professor:	Very good, Joe. Can you all tell me another word starting with 't'?
Nicha:	It's 'tranquil', Ms.!



Asking for Clarification

Teacher clarifies by checking if h/she and students understand the learning content or directions. (Gorman & Norris, 2019)

For example:

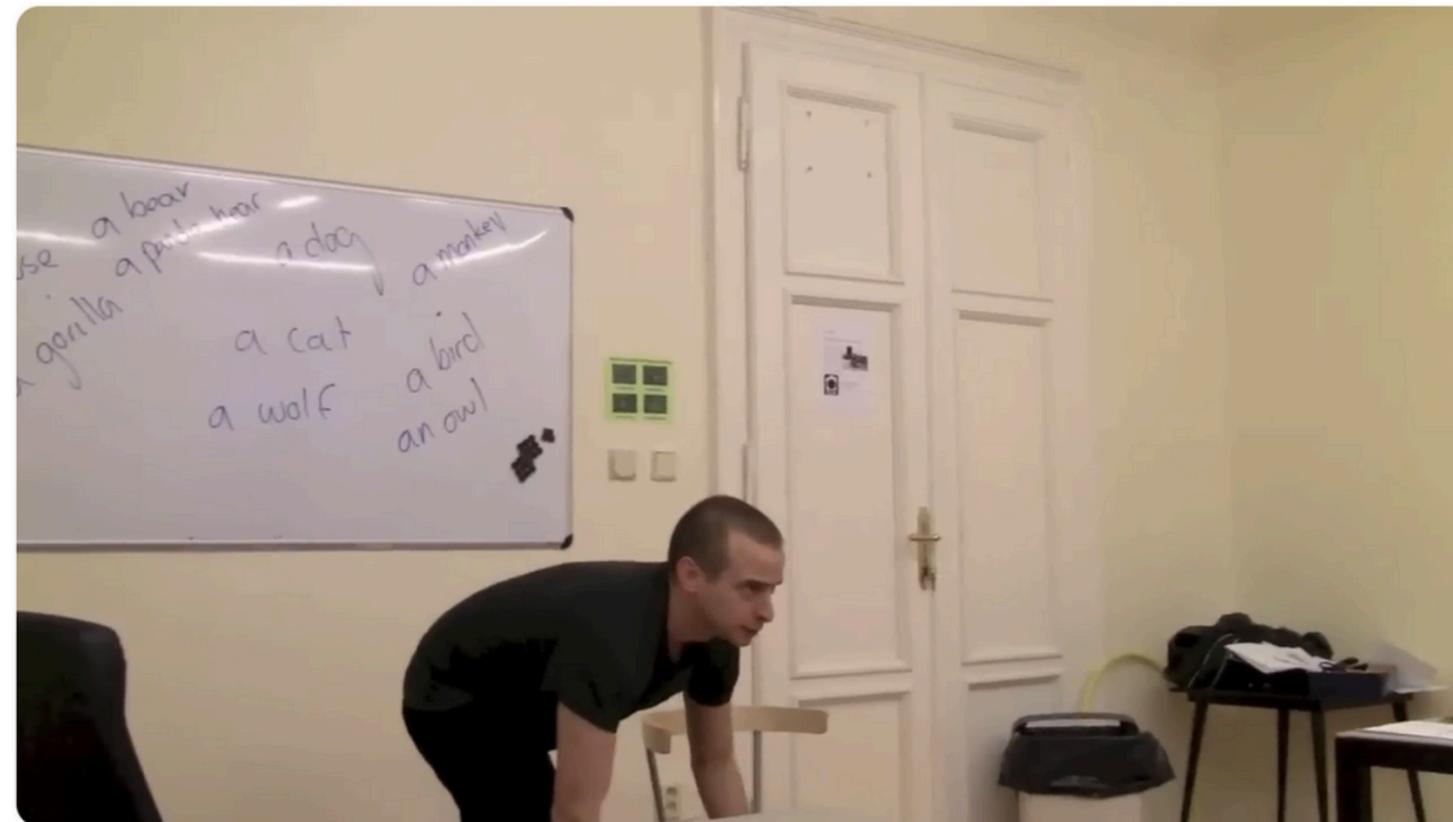
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are you with me?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can I answer any questions?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can you understand me?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Would it be better for me to repeat that?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do you want me to repeat that?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Was I going too fast?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is that clear?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Should I repeat the directions?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do you follow?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Should I rephrase that?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is anybody lost?	



Eliciting

Rather than telling your learners an answer, you can use the following eliciting techniques: mimes, actions, pictures, etc.

For example:



ESL Eliciting

Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RR_JJWuZbzs



Simplifying

Use short, sharp sentences.

For example:

- “Before lunch time, the red and green team write their results on the board.”
- “The red team makes the blue tower. The green team makes the steel bridge. Before lunch time, both teams write their results on the board.”

Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RR_JJWuZbzs



Translating

In some specific examples of situations, intentional use of L1 can enhance learning without compromising immersion

For example:

- Allow students to ask: “How do you say ___ in English?”
– but expect them to use the English once given.

(Taylor, 2025)



Classroom Language

routine

praise

reduces

increases

Classroom language is the **routine** language that is used on a regular basis in classroom like giving instructions or **praise**, for example “Take out your books” or “Please sit down”. This is language that teachers are used to using and students are used to hearing, but when teaching a language it takes a while to learn this part of the language. Knowing these language basics **reduces** the amount that students are forced to use their mother tongue and **increases** the amount of the target language they are using; it makes the language classroom environment more authentic.

(Bilash 2009)



Some examples of classroom language?

Asking for permission

- Can I come to your office?
- I'm sorry I am late.
- Can I go to the restroom?
- Can I change seats?
- Just a minute/second/sec (please).





Some examples of classroom language?

Asking for help

- How should I pronounce “...”?
- How do you pronounce this word?
- Would you pronounce the word “...”?
- How do you spell “...”?
- How do you spell that?
- I didn’t understand today’s lesson.
- I don’t understand the homework.
- When is the homework due?
- Excuse me, can I talk to you for a minute?





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Asking for help

- How should I pronounce “...”?
- How do you pronounce this word?
- Would you pronounce the word “...”?
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- How do you spell that?
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Some examples of classroom language?

Traditional Roll Call

- Good morning/afternoon, everyone. I'll now take attendance. When I call your name, please respond with 'Here' or 'Present'





Some examples of classroom language?

Digital Attendance

- We'll be using our attendance app/software. Please ensure your name is checked off or mark yourself as 'present' if you haven't already.





Some examples of classroom language?

Late Arrival

- If you arrive after attendance has been taken, please come and let me know. I'll mark you as 'late' rather than 'absent'





Some examples of classroom language?

Announcing Material Distribution

- Good [morning/afternoon], everyone. I'll be passing out today's handouts/worksheet. Please make sure to take only one and pass the rest along.





Some examples of classroom language?

Requesting Assistance

- I need a volunteer to help distribute these papers.
Thank you, [student's name],
for assisting.





Some examples of classroom language?

Managing Return of Materials

- Once we're done, please pass your papers forward. We'll collect them to keep the classroom tidy.





Some examples of classroom language?

Seeking students' attention

- "May I have your attention, please?"
- "I need your focus up front, thank you."
- "Eyes on me, please."





Some examples of classroom language?

Students' request for help

Excuse me, could you help me with this question, please?



Teacher's response

Sure, let's take a look together.





Some examples of classroom language?

Students' request for help

I'm having trouble understanding [topic]. Could you explain it to me?



Teacher's response

Of course, I'll explain that concept again.





Some examples of classroom language?

Students' request for help

I need some clarification on [specific issue]. Can you assist?



Teacher's response

Let me clarify that for you.





Some examples of classroom language?

Students' request for help

I'm not sure how to proceed. Can you guide me through this problem?



Teacher's response

I'll guide you through the first one, and then I'd like you to try the next one on your own.



Bibliography

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