

1. ESA Teaching Model — Engage, Study, Activate

Jeremy Harmer, in his book *How to Teach English*, summarizes the three elements of ESA as follows:

Engage

In order to teach students English, the teacher must have the attention of students and involve them emotionally. Students who are involved often perform better and are better behaved. Some activities that engage students include games, stories, music, and pictures. These activities can be used to lead into the language content targeted for that lesson.



Similar principles follow here as they do for principles of good communication. Students and others will listen and recall what they think they heard. More often if they listen and also connect with their mind and heart, they will remember longer. The “Retention Pie Chart” in the Topic outline of this lesson reported the dramatic increase in retention percentages when Seeing and Listening were combined, or Speaking and Writing were combined. It is very important to notice that 90% retention was gained when several learning styles were combined by Doing.

Study

During this part of the lesson, the focus is on language and how it is constructed. New information or a revision of previously learned information can be included during this time. The teacher can use a variety of styles to present the information, focusing on grammar, vocabulary or pronunciation. Styles include the teacher presenting the material and students learning by working in groups. Written and oral English are included in this segment of the class and the individual learning styles presented in Lesson Three are a major consideration.

Focusing on grammar has been a hallmark of teaching English. Grammar lessons found in all Teaching English textbooks still have great value and must be a key portion of learning to speak English.

For teachers of Grammar, there are several Internet sites providing grammar lessons that individual teachers can use for free. One of the best organized is www.englishclub.com which includes a section on Grammar, lessons for teaching each part of speech, and a discussion of

Additional Grammar Internet Sites:

<http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwesl/egw/index1.htm>

www.rong-chang.com/lsnplan.htm

common challenges in teaching grammar.

Activate

This phase of **ESA** refers to the use and practice of the language focus in the Study segment of the lesson. Exercises and activities are designed for students to use English in communication, rehearsing what they have learned. Without the activate element, students will have trouble taking their classroom experience into real-world communication. Some Activate activities include role-playing, debating, story or poem writing, and discussions.

Example of same content using Straight Arrow Method for ESA

Lessons can be presented in the ESA order, using the straight arrow method. An example of this type of activity could include:

Engage: Teacher and students look at a picture of a sports event. Students explain what the activity involves, who is participating, what the rules or goals seem to be, etc.

Study: The teacher introduces sporting vocabulary for the students, demonstrating correct pronunciation.

Activate: Students write a story about the picture, including dialogue between the sports participants.

Example of repetitive content using Looping Method for ESA

The teacher may choose to use other combinations of these three elements, engaging and activating students before looking at language points:

Engage: Students and teacher watch a television interview of a famous athlete or actor/actress. Teacher asks questions about the interview and how the students feel about the interviewer and his/her questions.

Activate: Students work in pairs, with one student acting as the interviewer and one as the interviewee. Each pair will perform for the class, with the teacher taking notes on some common mistakes.

Study: Teacher shares with students some of the common mistakes from the interviews and asks students to write a sentence that correctly uses each misused vocabulary word or grammar construction.

Activate: Students will perform another practice interview, using correct grammar and vocabulary.



As you return to the ESA core page of Lesson Seven, you will review a slideshow that gives a successful model for ESA.