

## **The effectiveness of different teaching methods for English language learners**

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**Abstract:** The study sought to establish the effectiveness of the various teaching methods on the acquisition of the English language skills. The study was carried out in public secondary schools in Nairobi County. The objectives sought to find out the various teaching methods used in English language, the effectiveness of the lecture methods on acquisition of English language skills; the role of role plays as a teaching method in promoting acquisition of English language skills and the effectiveness of questions and answer methods on acquisitions of English language skills. Four research questions were formulated to guide the study.

**Keywords:** Effectiveness, Teaching, Methods, English Language, Students, Skills.

**Introduction.** English as an international language is spoken in many countries both as native language and as a second or a foreign language. It is taught in schools in almost every country on earth. It is a living and vibrant language spoken by over three hundred million people as a native language.

Critical thinking is an important skill that allows students to analyze information, solve problems, and make informed decisions. As such, a good teaching method should be devoted to developing critical thinking skills among students. Project-based Learning (PBL) is one teaching method that can effectively promote critical thinking. By giving students a real-world problem to solve, PBL requires students to use critical thinking skills to analyze information, develop solutions, and evaluate the effectiveness of their ideas. This method encourages students to think creatively and independently, as well as collaborate with others to develop and refine their ideas.

Another effective teaching method for promoting critical thinking is inquiry-based learning. In this approach, students are encouraged to ask questions, investigate problems, and draw their own conclusions based on evidence. By engaging in this process, students are able to develop their critical thinking skills, as well as their ability to communicate their ideas and findings to others.

Socratic questioning is a teaching method that can also help to develop critical thinking skills. By asking students open-ended questions that require them to think deeply about a topic, teachers can help to promote critical thinking and encourage students to develop their own ideas and arguments.

Technical skills are essential in today's world and encompass a wide range of abilities. By developing strong technical skills, individuals can enhance their personal and professional lives, stay competitive in the job market, and contribute to the digital transformation of society.

Technical skills refer to the ability to use various digital tools and technologies effectively and efficiently. In today's world, having strong technical skills is becoming increasingly important for personal and professional success.

Here are some examples of teaching techniques that can enhance the technical skills of a person:

- **Hands-on learning:** This method involves allowing students to learn by doing. By providing students with opportunities to practice technical skills, they can gain the hands-on experience and confidence they need to master the subject matter.
- **Project-based learning:** This method involves providing students with a project that

requires the application of technical skills to solve a real-world problem. It encourages students to apply what they have learned and develop a deeper understanding of the subject matter.

- **Demonstration and modeling:** This method involves showing students how to perform technical tasks, followed by allowing them to practice on their own. This approach helps students learn by observing and imitating the teacher's actions.
- **Collaborative learning:** This approach involves group work and discussion, where students work together to solve technical problems. By working in teams, students can share ideas, ask questions, and learn from each other's experiences.
- **Online tutorials and videos:** With the availability of online resources, students can access a wealth of information and tutorials that can help them develop technical skills. Online tutorials and videos can provide step-by-step instructions, visual aids, and interactive exercises to help students learn at their own pace.

Overall, teaching technical skills requires a hands-on and practical approach that incorporates a variety of teaching methods and strategies. By using these methods, teachers can help students develop the skills they need to succeed in a technology-driven world.

### **Decision-Making**

Decision-making skills are certainly important for a modern day learner to succeed in the highly competitive world. Let it be a simple decision of what to eat for dinner or a complex, life-altering question of how to get into a business school, decision-making takes center stage in all walks of life. Some effective teaching methods for promoting decision-making skills include:

- **Case studies:** Analyzing and evaluating real-world scenarios can help students develop their critical thinking and decision-making skills.
- **Role-playing:** Engaging in role-playing activities can help students learn how to make decisions under pressure and in various situations.
- **Simulations:** Simulations can provide students with hands-on experience in making decisions in a safe and controlled environment.
- **Group projects:** Collaborating with others to complete projects can help students develop their decision-making and communication skills.

In addition to teaching methods, admission experts can provide valuable guidance and support throughout the college or business school application process. They can offer insights into the admissions criteria, provide feedback on essays and applications, and help students develop strategies for presenting themselves in the best possible light.

### **Emotional Intelligence**

Some teaching methods that can polish emotional intelligence skills include the following:

- **Use storytelling:** Storytelling is a powerful tool for building empathy and understanding. Teachers can use stories to help students connect with different perspectives, experiences, and emotions.
- **Foster collaboration and teamwork:** Collaborative learning activities can help students develop emotional intelligence by practicing communication, active listening, and empathy.
- **Provide opportunities for self-regulation:** Self-regulation is an important aspect of emotional intelligence. Teachers can provide opportunities for students to practice self-regulation through mindfulness exercises, self-reflection, and stress-management

techniques.

**Provide feedback:** Feedback is a critical component of emotional intelligence development. Teachers can provide feedback to students in a constructive and supportive way, focusing on specific behaviors and encouraging growth and development.

### **Creativity**

Project-based learning (PBL) is a highly effective teaching method that can foster creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication skills in students. In PBL, students work on a project that is based on real-world problems or challenges, and they are responsible for developing a solution or a product. PBL encourages students to engage in deep learning by exploring complex topics and developing skills through hands-on experiences. On the other hand, we have Storytelling, a powerful teaching method that can help students think outside the box and develop their creativity. Storytelling can be used in a variety of ways in the classroom, such as:

- **Engaging students:** Stories can capture students' attention and create a sense of wonder and curiosity. By using storytelling as a teaching method, teachers can engage students in the learning process and make the material more interesting and memorable.
- **Encouraging imagination:** Stories can stimulate students' imagination and creativity. When students are exposed to stories, they can visualize the scenes and characters in their minds, which can help them develop their creativity and imagination.
- **Developing empathy:** Stories can help students develop empathy by exposing them to different perspectives and experiences. Through stories, students can learn to see the world through the eyes of others and develop a deeper understanding of different cultures and backgrounds.
- **Teaching moral values:** Stories can be used to teach moral values and lessons. By using stories to illustrate important values and concepts, teachers can help students develop a strong sense of ethics and morality.

**Literature review:** English as an international language is spoken in many countries both as native language and as a second or a foreign language. It is taught in schools in almost every country on earth. It is a living and vibrant language spoken by over three hundred million people as a native language. Millions more speak it as an additional language. (Bowen J. 1979) Secondary schools in Kenya enroll students of varying Nationalities and social backgrounds (Okwara et al, 2009).

Okwara et al further says that besides adding to the diversity of learners population, their social cultural settings expose them to varied experiences and values that positively or negatively impact on learning. Teaching methods refer to a broad set of teaching styles, approaches, strategies or procedures used by teachers to facilitate learning (Curzon, 1990).

Teaching methods that enable learners to actively participate in their learning should be adopted instead of those that reduce them to passive recipients of knowledge (Okwara et al, 2009). In cases where the teaching methods adopted are not consistent with learners preferred learning styles, discomfort sets in and interferes with the learning process hence acquisition of the desired English knowledge is impaired. Use of teaching methods should take cognizance of the learner's preferred learning styles and balance them with the less effective but popular methods of learning (Okwara et al, 2009).

The selection and arrangement of elements of the curriculum and the various ways in which they are introduced to the studies is the more specialized meaning of teaching method (Hoyle, 1969).

Teachers of English can use various teaching methods depending on preference or type of skill the learner is expected to acquire after instruction. According to (Micheal, 1987), the lecture method is probably the most popular and widely used teaching method. However lecture method limits the

chances of asking questions (Castello, 1991).

Other teaching methods in English include demonstration; which stimulates students thinking, small group discussion, this gives learners opportunities to express their opinions, role play, reading, research and writing are also used to provide a nourishing learning environment. Discovery methods are known to keep students motivated and aroused, aid cognition and enhance retention. These methods are not to be used in every lesson but, rather, the teacher should choose the most appropriate methods in line with the topic and the pupils. The choice of teaching methods depends on the strategy used, whereas the strategy depends on the content and objectives of the lesson (Bowen J, 1985).

**Conclusion.** In conclusion, the most effective teaching method will depend on the specific learning goals, the subject matter, the students' learning styles and abilities, and the context in which the learning is taking place. Different teaching methods may be more or less effective depending on the situation.

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