




Things I have learned!

While teaching students for whom English is not a first language.

Part 2



Make the “learning place” a **SAFE** place to make mistakes.

- Mistakes are LEARNING EXPERIENCES!
- Learners of a new language are like babies.
 - first they hear sounds
 - then they repeat the sounds
 - finally they put sounds and meanings together



Make the “learning place” a
SAFE place to make mistakes.

- **NUMERO UNO!!!!** People who choose to learn English are perfectionists! They want to speak English **PERFECTLY!**
- **COMMUNICATION vs. GOOD GRAMMAR**



Gail's 3 vowel rules.... #1

- When two vowels are next to each other in a word, the FIRST vowel USUALLY “says its name.”

EXAMPLES:

eat

wait

people



Gail's 3 vowel rules.... #2

- When a word has a vowel (any vowel) a consonant (any consonant) and then an “e,” the **FIRST** vowel **USUALLY** says its name.”

EXAMPLES:

cake

bite

home



Gail's 3 vowel rules.... #3

- When a word has ONLY ONE vowel, the sound is usually “short.”

EXAMPLES:

cut

sit

hat

Add an “e” to the end of
the word and get:

cute

site

hate



“TH” pronunciation

- MANY English words have a “th” in them, beginning, middle and/or ending.
- No other language has this sound. It feels awkward to non-native English speakers, so they end up saying “z,” “t,” or “f” for the sound.
- Google “Dave Sconda, TH lesson”

Have your student(s) practice sticking their tongue out at you!



For Spanish speakers...

“V” vs “B”:

- Practice and gentle correction is necessary for this one...you are asking your student(s) to relearn a sound he/she has used since he/she began speaking.
- Over exaggerate the mouth position for both letters.



English or American?

- ◊ It is never wrong to speak **CORRECTLY!**
- ◊ Teach the **CORRECT** way to say something...
- ◊ **THEN** teach the **AMERICAN** way to say it!



English or American?

- CONTRACTIONS are words! They are not abbreviations to be translated.
- Encourage students to use contractions.



Americans are VERY helpful but... VERY biased!

Give your student these 3 sentences. Each sentence should begin with,

“I am studying to learn English...”

- could you please speak slowly?”
- could you please repeat that?”
- could you spell that, please?”



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