

Education Tips

ESL is a great model for teaching code/technology

- Language is a difficult skill to acquire
- All types of people need to learn English (not just experts or smart people, must be accessible to all)
- Cambridge standard = Communicative method

The Communicative method for ESL

- What really matters is that you communicate a message, not the details of how you communicate it
- Students should use/be exposed to real language and language constructs that will be most common for their needs/experience, not theoretical knowledge (by itself at least)
- Practice in context of the thing you've learned at the time you learn it

General good teaching tips

- Vary the activities and types of learning - group exercise, lecture, class discussion, pair work. Things that focus on visual learning, audio learning, kinesthetic learning.
- Context and Examples - Stay away from trying to teach vague concepts. Talk about a certain rule or way of doing things in terms of a context. Also, examples are how students learn, you cannot use too many.
- Don't talk too much - Students have much more efficient learning levels from doing, seeing, and hearing (in descending order). Teachers have a tendency to think their job is to be the Fount of All Wisdom, but that is rarely effective and usually harmful to think that way.

How we can use this system to teach technology...

- Pick a small thing to teach for a lesson or section of a lesson (curriculum, lesson plan)
- Expose them indirectly to the idea (through an example or some other instrument that uses the concept, even if it's not obvious)
- Show them the problem that the idea addresses (point out through the previous example or use a new example)
- Explain the idea (lecture - 5 mins tops)
- Have them practice the idea (exercises)
- Concept check/Discussion (discussion)
- More practice (exercises)
- Prove with homework (homework)

This method is one that lends itself well to consolidation of knowledge, and a solid practical understanding of highly conceptual ideas.