

PROMOTION OF UNDERSTANDING & RETENTION

This category comprises the approaches a teacher can use to (1) explain the content being taught and (2) have the learner meaningfully interact with that content, thus assisting the learner to understand and retain it.

KEY COMPONENTS & TEACHING BEHAVIORS

ORGANIZATION OF MATERIAL:

- use overviews and summaries
- use transitions
- enumerate
- use advance organizers

CLARITY:

- use examples (e.g., cases, self as model)
- define any new terms
- explain relationships in material (e.g., analogies)
- avoid vague terms (e.g., "sometimes," "usually")
- adequately respond to learners' questions

EMPHASIS:

- vary voice quality and speed
- use dramatic language and gestures
- use visual aids (whiteboard, slides, simulations)
- cue important points
- use repetition

FOSTERING ACTIVE LEARNING:

- have learners reformulate material
- encourage note-taking
- provide a chance for skill practice
- have learners apply material to own experience
- assign/discuss literature
- suggest expert consultations
- ask questions to stimulate reflection

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