

WHAT TO DO WHEN STUDENTS DO NOT SHOW INTEREST IN LEARNING YOUR SUBJECT?

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Abstract

The article discusses difficulties that teachers encounter when their students do not seem to care about their lessons. Potential reasons for student disinterest, such as a lack of relevance or connection to students' lives and problems comprehending the information are explained. It offers various suggestions for modifying lesson plans to better match student needs and interests. Additionally, it focuses on the role technology plays in boosting student engagement, new teaching strategies to do so, and offers advice on how to forge closer bonds with students to make learning more enjoyable and meaningful. The article's overall goal is to offer helpful advice as well as solutions to teachers who are having trouble getting their students interested in learning English.

Keywords: Lack of relevance, real-life example, excessive demands, individualized feedback, cultural relevance, audio books.

INTRODUCTION:

All of us have been there. You have prepared one wonderful lesson. You have printed all of your handouts and gathered all of your resources. You are ready. The classroom instruction begins after that. Everything seems to be going smoothly until you realize that some of your students are starting to lose interest in you and your lessons. Teaching can be a difficult profession, and it can be particularly demoralizing when your students appear distracted and uninterested in what you're teaching. However, it's important to keep in mind that there are a variety of possible causes for this behavior, and there are techniques you can use to overcome these challenges and boost student involvement. It may cause you to doubt your teaching skills and wonder what else you could be doing to engage your students. But it's important to keep in mind that each student is different and could need a different method of learning. In this article, we'll explore several methods for re-engaging disinterested students and improving the effectiveness of your classes for all students.

Reasons:

There could be multiple reasons why students might lose interest in lessons. It is important for teachers to identify the reasons why their students are losing interest in the lesson and take steps to address those issues. These are some of the most common reasons identified.

Lack of relevance: If a class does not have any bearing on the students' lives or future plans, they may lose interest. They could find it difficult to remain interested if they do not comprehend how the knowledge or skills being taught might be used in actual circumstances.

Too difficult or too easy: There are a variety of reasons why pupils can find a given subject difficult. This may be due to a lack of aptitude in a particular subject, knowledge gaps that have grown, or possibly a need for additional time or practice with particular tasks. Students may become disheartened if they have trouble comprehending the subject matter because English can be a difficult language to learn. They also

lack the language skills necessary to communicate the ideas that their teacher wants them to. They fail to grasp the significance of speaking English exclusively in class. Concentrating on speaking a foreign language is extremely difficult, especially if their language levels are inadequate. Likewise, nothing in schooling is flawless. As a result, certain students are able to learn and develop far more quickly than their peers. In the short term, recurrent success can be a tremendous external motivator, but if the subject offers no real challenge over an extended length of time, it can lead to the development of no motivation to study.

Negative past experiences: Students may have had poor past experiences learning the English language, which can cause them to lose interest in upcoming courses.

Personal Problems: Sometimes, motivation issues are unrelated to academics or specific courses. If things at home aren't going well, students might not be motivated to study. According to a study conducted in Colorado, children of divorce performed worse academically than those from homes with unbroken relationships. A student's degree of interest and involvement in a particular lesson or subject area might be impacted by personal issues including domestic stress, mental health challenges, or other life events.

Lack of motivation: Unmotivated students could not be interested in learning new information or abilities. This might be the result of things like low self-esteem, lack of confidence, or a disliking of school

Boring teaching method: Maybe, the teacher is not sufficiently engaging or is lecturing in a monotonous manner, which may cause pupils to lose interest if they are not challenged or engaged by it in the class. While most teachers are adequately qualified and start their careers with the best interests of students in mind, many are underpaid, stressed, overburdened, burnt out, have low morale or other reasons that prevent them from putting in the time and effort needed to make all their classes engaging to everyone. As a result, the lessons may become monotonous and dry. This in turn has an impact on their students' drive and interest.

Insufficient interaction: Students may not feel involved in a lesson if they are not given enough chances to interact with the teacher or their peers.

Excessive demands: High expectations are frequently associated with motivating youngsters. To some extent, it is true. However, a lot of research suggest that a lack of motivation to study may be caused by having unrealistic expectations. They may cause pupils to become depressed, which would then have a detrimental effect on their academic performance. Therefore, striking a balance is crucial.

How to overcome?

Every student learns differently, so it could take some trial and error to find what works best for each of them. The good thing is that with strong relationships, it is feasible to identify the main causes of students' disinterest in particular subjects and to offer assistance to those students in resolving those problems. As a teacher, you continue to have obligations. By learning, researching, pushing outside of your comfort zone, challenging yourself to use more technology in the classroom (or to learn how to teach well without technology), and learning about alternative teaching techniques, you may keep your passion for the art of teaching alive. In general, switch up your typical teaching approach to stay focused.

Start with questions: According to William Glasser's research(American psychiatrist), the following questions should be asked from students:

What do you want?

What steps are you doing to achieve your goals?

Is it working?

What options or plans do you have?

Asking pupils to think about these questions can inspire them to work toward a magnificent goal. You might collaborate with a school in another nation or undertake a group service initiative. Any activity that gives students a reason to participate and be interested will be really beneficial for your class.

Work to the interests of your students: Spend some time learning about your students' interests.

Consider activities that allow for debating interests (e-books vs printed books, IOS vs Androids, TV vs newspapers), establish a habit of completing a survey at the beginning of the semester, pay attention when they discuss their interests, plan opportunities for writing and speaking tasks that center around a freely chosen topic, and incorporate characters from popular culture into sentences to practice grammar points. Most adult students choose to enroll in an English course because they require the language to complete a task, unlike young learners who may do so because their parents force them to. Maybe they wish to submit an overseas scholarship application. Or perhaps they need to take an English language test to succeed in their work. It is crucial that you comprehend your students' motivations for enrolling in an English course, as well as how to address and include their hobbies and objectives within the classes. Besides, Students will be more motivated and engaged to participate in the learning process when they feel that their aims and interests are being addressed in class. This drive might result in greater effort and improved academic performance.

Encourage goal setting: Setting and achieving personal objectives can be a huge source of inspiration for older students. Naturally, these need to be accurate and unique. Teach students to divide their overarching goal—say, "I want to move to the USA in two years to study at a university"—into semester- and monthly-sized objectives. Share advice on how to gauge their growth after that.

Use real-life examples: Learning becomes more relevant and meaningful when students can relate what they learn in the classroom to their own lives and experiences. You can increase learners' desire to learn when they see that they can use English to carry out daily tasks or to communicate with people from other nations in a variety of circumstances. By including things that students are interested in, teachers can make the lessons more suitable to their needs. For instance, the teacher can use vocabulary and grammar from such subject areas into their classes if the pupils are interested in sports, medicine, arithmetic, or history. When learners listen to and practice using real-life language, they can develop their ability to communicate in real-life situations and understand English more sophisticatedly. Also real-life materials give students real language input. When we use English on a daily basis, we don't always hear people with clear voices with very slight or even no accent, as we hear on listening tracks in textbooks.

Giving individualized feedback: Giving your adult pupils specific feedback is crucial if you want them to participate in class! Building a relationship with your students through personalized feedback is possible. Giving them personalized comments demonstrates your concern for and interest in their education. Giving each pupil their own evaluation demonstrates that you are considering both their areas of strength and their areas for development. This enables pupils to concentrate on developing their weak areas. Students who receive personalized feedback not only become more fluent in their second language, but they also feel appreciated and valued for their efforts. This might be a fantastic motivator for them to keep learning and accomplish their objectives!

Finally, be sure to provide give encouraging feedback: This may inspire them to keep learning and help them gain more confidence.

Reward progress: Reward the progress by giving out awards or class recognition for achieving milestones or goals. This will encourage students to strive for excellence in their English education. While some individuals disagree with the idea of rewarding students for learning, a prize now and again can encourage a disinterested or unmotivated student to get involved. Free time at the end of class, a popcorn and movie party, or a field trip to a special place are all examples of incentives and rewards. Keep students engaged while they work toward their goal as a class by making it plain to them exactly what they need to do to obtain it.

Show cultural relevance: Introduce students to English-speaking cultures through movies, music, and literature. This will expose them to new and interesting perspectives that will help motivate them to learn the language. Connect with culture: Introduce students to English-speaking cultures through literature,

movies, music, and food. This can help them appreciate the language and motivate them to learn more.

Encourage participation: Encourage students to participate in class discussions, debates, role-plays, and other enjoyable and engaging activities that provide them the chance to practice using the English language. Establish a setting in the classroom where students can converse in English with one another. As a result, their confidence and language skills will improve.

Establish a supportive learning environment: Teachers who are charming and helpful to their pupils can establish a positive learning environment. Building rapport and trust with the kids in this way can assist motivate them to use the language more actively. Make the atmosphere welcoming: Create a welcoming environment where students can make errors and ask questions without worrying about being picked on or made fun of.

Use technology: Technology can be a useful tool for engaging students who are not interested in traditional classroom activities. Teachers can use apps, videos, and online resources to make learning English more interactive and engaging. In particular, when teaching four competences, namely reading, writing, speaking and listening, technical devices are irreplaceable contributor. ESL students can now have tablets or e-readers that are customized to their needs thanks to the increase in popularity of one-to-one gadgets. These gadgets might come with reading apps that already have built-in dictionaries or even dictionaries with pronunciation instructions. Software for constructing vocabulary can also be added. Students can use the read aloud feature to assist them access challenging texts, of course. Even apps that will read text aloud from websites can be downloaded using certain tools. Apart from reading, knowledge in terms of technology comes in handy in teaching writing, too. Surprisingly, ESL students do well with the outdated word processing software. The majority of document-based writing applications have tools like dictionaries, thesauruses, and grammar and spelling checkers. These word processing systems can be enhanced with apps that provide a more thorough writing analysis. Students will benefit from these apps by being able to clearly see what is wrong and why. Some systems even have built-in exercises to practice fixing such frequent mistakes. Additionally, Before they feel comfortable speaking, ESL students need to spend a lot of time listening. They have numerous opportunities to listen throughout the day because of technology. The instructions can be listened to as many times as necessary by the students if you record your classes or work in a flipped or blended environment. They can listen to texts that they may find difficult to read thanks to audio books. Podcasts are a fantastic way for ESL students to learn about interesting topics and get exposed to various speech patterns. Last but not least, Software for real-time video conferences is also a fantastic tool for encouraging speaking among ESL students. Connect students with others by having them present, ask questions, or take part in roundtable discussions with classmates and people from other classes. The majority of gadgets come with simple audio recording software. Encourage your students take notes on tape or to practice speaking aloud while listening back.

CONCLUSION

Noticing no enthusiasm in your students is one of the most encountered classroom problems related to classroom management. It is important to take a sympathetic and understanding approach when students appear bored and uninterested in your lessons. Keep in mind that every student is different and may have various reasons for not participating with as much passion as you expected. As educators, it's our responsibility to help every student reach their full potential, and with the right strategies, we can make a difference in the lives of our students. It is important for teachers to stay positive, identify the root cause of the disinterest, and adapt their teaching styles to better engage their students. The first step in engaging disinterested students is to build relationships with them. Take the time to get to know your students, find out what their interests are, and show them that you care about their well-being. In fact, not all of your students have to study English in order to be an English teacher or a language specialist. Knowing their interests and future goals, connect English to their goals. For example, if they are going to be doctors, teach

more medicine-related content in English, that is when they begin learning both the language as well as medicine-related topics in English to some extent. You might be able to create a more encouraging and stimulating learning environment for everyone if you acknowledge their difficulties and collaborate with them to find potential solutions. Teachers can encourage more interest and participation in their lessons by including engaging, hands-on activities, relating the lesson topic to real-life experiences, and developing strong connections with students. It may take some time to see the results of these efforts, but dedication and patience are the key, but ultimately, making an investment in student involvement is an investment in their success both inside and outside of the classroom.

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