

## INNOVATIVE WAYS OF TEACHING ENGLISH

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### Abstract:

This article explores innovative ways of teaching English, including the flipped classroom model, gamification and task-based language teaching. This article also highlights the theoretical foundations, benefits, challenges, and assessment methods of the flipped classroom model.

*Key words:* English language teaching, innovation in education, flipped classroom, gamification, artificial intelligence, experiential learning, task-based learning.

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The traditional methods of teaching English, such as grammar translation and lecture-based instruction, have been criticized for their lack of engagement and limited effectiveness in real-world language acquisition. Modern approaches in English language teaching (ELT) focus on interaction, communication, and the integration of technology to create an immersive learning experience. According to Krashen's input hypothesis, language acquisition is most effective when learners are exposed to comprehensible input in meaningful contexts [7]. Similarly, Vygotsky's socio-cultural theory emphasizes the role of social interaction in cognitive development, reinforcing the need for interactive teaching methods [13]. Innovations in language teaching align with these theories, providing opportunities for meaningful engagement and practical language use.

The traditional model of English language teaching often relies on direct instruction in the classroom, followed by homework for practice. However, recent pedagogical shifts have emphasized active learning, prompting the rise of the flipped classroom approach. According to Bergmann and Sams, the flipped classroom inverts conventional teaching by having students engage with instructional content such as videos, readings, and podcasts outside the classroom, while class time is dedicated to discussions, problem-solving, and interactive tasks [3]. Vygotsky's socio-cultural theory supports this model, as it emphasizes the importance of social interaction in cognitive development. Additionally, Bloom's taxonomy suggests that lower-order cognitive tasks (e.g., remembering, understanding) should be addressed before class, allowing higher-order thinking (e.g., analyzing, evaluating) to take place during face-to-face interactions [1].

Teachers provide students with pre-recorded lectures, digital resources, and reading materials before class. Platforms like Edpuzzle, YouTube, and Google Classroom facilitate content delivery, ensuring accessibility and flexibility. This self-paced learning allows students to revisit complex topics as needed. Instead of passive listening, classroom time is devoted to active learning activities such as group discussions, peer teaching, debates, and problem-solving exercises. These activities enhance comprehension, communication skills, and collaboration. Technological advancements support the flipped classroom model. Learning management systems (LMS) such as Moodle, Blackboard, and Schoology help organize course materials, track progress, and facilitate communication. Additionally, tools like Kahoot!, Quizizz, and Flipgrid encourage engagement through interactive assessments and video responses.

One of the primary benefits of the flipped classroom model is its impact on language acquisition. Speaking and listening skills improve as students spend more class time engaged in conversations, discussions, and collaborative exercises. Activities such as role-playing, debates, and presentations provide opportunities for real-world communication. Listening comprehension is enhanced through exposure to varied audio-visual resources before class, allowing students to process language at their own pace. Reading skills develop through assigned texts, articles, and interactive e-books, which students explore before attending lessons. Teachers can design comprehension activities to ensure students engage deeply with the materials. Writing skills benefit from in-class workshops where students receive immediate feedback on their drafts, engage in peer review, and collaborate on writing tasks. This continuous engagement with the four language skills makes the flipped classroom an effective model for English language learning.

To ensure the success of a flipped classroom, teachers must implement appropriate assessment methods. Formative assessments, such as quizzes, reflection journals, and discussion board posts, help track students' understanding of pre-class materials. Interactive classroom activities, such as peer reviews and oral presentations, serve as performance-based assessments. Digital tools like Google Forms, Padlet, and Edmodo

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allow for quick and efficient feedback. Summative assessments, including essays, language portfolios, and project-based evaluations, provide a comprehensive measure of student progress over time.

Despite its advantages, the flipped classroom model faces challenges. Student readiness can be an issue if learners do not engage with pre-class materials. Teachers can address this by incorporating quizzes or discussion prompts to ensure accountability. Technological barriers, such as limited access to devices and the internet, can hinder learning, but schools can provide alternative resources like offline materials or in-class technology access. Teacher preparation is another challenge, as creating high-quality instructional content requires time and effort. Institutions should offer training and resources to support educators in implementing the flipped model effectively.

The flipped classroom approach offers a dynamic and effective way to teach English, encouraging active participation and deeper comprehension. By shifting passive learning outside the classroom, students can focus on developing essential language skills through interactive activities. Although challenges exist, they can be mitigated through proper planning and resource allocation. As educational trends continue to shift toward student-centered learning, adopting the flipped model can significantly enhance English language instruction and prepare learners for real-world communication.

Another innovative approach is gamification, which integrates game-like elements into learning to boost motivation and engagement. Gamified learning includes point-based rewards, badges, leaderboards, and competitive challenges. According to Kapp, gamification enhances student motivation by providing immediate feedback and a sense of achievement. English teachers can incorporate digital platforms such as Kahoot!, Quizizz, and Duolingo, where students practice vocabulary, grammar, and listening skills in an interactive format.

A widely recognized communicative approach is task-based language teaching (TBLT). Unlike traditional methods that focus on isolated grammar exercises, TBLT encourages learners to complete meaningful tasks using the target language. Research by Ellis supports the effectiveness of TBLT in developing communication skills [4]. In a classroom setting, students may be asked to plan a trip, create a business presentation, or engage in problem-solving discussions in English.

Innovative methods in English language teaching have transformed the learning experience, making it more interactive, student-centered, and effective. The flipped classroom model promotes active learning, gamification increases motivation, AI tools provide personalized support, experiential learning enhances practical language use, and task-based learning improves communication skills. These approaches align with contemporary language acquisition theories and cater to diverse learning needs.

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