

How to Best Serve Your English Language Learner Mentees

Navigating language barriers with English Language Learners (ELL) is a challenge that can be easily overcome with a few simple tools and techniques:



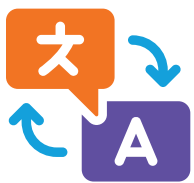
1. Adapt Communication

Communicate with your classroom teacher and incorporate the techniques that are already being utilized within the students' day-to-day instruction to address any language challenges. Your classroom teacher can be an enormous asset when working to overcome language challenges.



2. Be Consistent

Structure and predictability can be helpful for all students, but especially for ELL students.



3. Translate Materials

Use translator platforms like [Google Translate](#) to provide instruction documents in the languages needed for your class.



4. Limit Text

Avoid large chunks of text in instructions. Utilize numbered or bulleted lists as often as possible for instructions or slides.



5. Illustrate Instructions

Consider adding images or illustrations to accompany any written instructions. Think IKEA directions rather than only written directions. You can access a huge library of free illustrations and images on [shutterstock.com](#) and [pixabay.com](#).



6. Vary Communication

Lean on non-verbal language tools like body language, eye contact, and expressive facials. There is much that can be said without uttering a word.



7. Be present. Be patient. Be flexible.

Sometimes the first few interactions with ELL students can feel awkward or unsuccessful, but consistency will reap huge benefits down the line.