How Can English Teachers Use Backchaining to Practise Pronunciation?

S06E02 | For teachers to adapt to their learners

Teaching focus

Em begins a pronunciation demonstration with the final part of How long have you been learning English? and gradually adds earlier words. In S06E02, we revisit backchaining as a way to practise a difficult phrase in manageable sections.

Our suggested routine

1. Choose one useful phrase, establish its meaning and model the complete expression naturally.

2. Start with the final manageable chunk and let learners listen before repeating.

3. Add earlier chunks gradually, using smaller or larger steps according to the learner's difficulty.

4. Listen as the phrase grows and return to the full model if the learner loses the meaning or sound.

5. Use the whole phrase in a short pair exchange, swap roles and revisit it when useful.

After the attempt

What could learners do? What needed another model or a smaller step? Choose one useful adjustment and try the task again.

Notes for our next lesson

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Read the full teaching article and listen to the episode at howtoenglishpod.com