



How Can Teachers Find Out What English Learners Need?

S06E07 | For teachers to adapt to their learners

Teaching focus

Ask what the learner wants English to help them do, then use conversation and tasks to explore the broad answer they give you. A request for grammar or vocabulary is a starting point. It does not yet identify which language needs attention or where the learner will use it.

Our suggested routine

1. Ask what the learner wants to do in English and invite a specific situation.
2. Choose a small familiar task that lets them show the difficulty.
3. Notice successful communication and where meaning or understanding becomes difficult.
4. Agree one useful next step and explain how it connects to their goal.
5. Revisit the aim after further practice, using a concrete example of recent work.

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

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