HOW TO ENGLISH
With Gav & Em
Free teacher practice card

How Can Teachers Grade Their Language for English Learners?

S06E07 | For teachers to adapt to their learners

Teaching focus

Adjust the words, expressions, speed and connected speech so learners can follow the message. Speaking slowly is only one part of the job: an unfamiliar idiom can remain confusing even when every word is carefully stretched out.

Our suggested routine

1. Choose familiar wording for instructions and keep the immediate task clear.

2. If learners cannot begin, check whether the obstacle is wording, pace, connected speech or the task itself.

3. Rephrase or model the action, then ask for a small response that shows understanding.

4. Introduce one useful new expression at a time with a familiar alternative available.

5. Revisit it in later lessons and adjust towards a natural pace as learners can follow.

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