How Can Teachers Teach English Grammar Through Context?

S06E07 | For teachers to adapt to their learners

Teaching focus

Give the grammar a situation that makes its meaning visible, then add an explicit explanation when learners need one. A short story can show why a speaker chooses a form; a clear rule or model can help them understand how to build it.

Our suggested routine

1. Choose a short situation with two familiar alternatives and a clear meaning distinction.
2. Show or tell the context, then check what each choice means.
3. Display a concise model and let learners respond using the target language.
4. Change one detail or introduce another familiar pair of options.
5. Listen to the new response and return to the context or direct explanation where needed.

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