



How Can TEFL Teachers Handle Cultural Differences Sensitively?

S06E03 | For teachers to adapt to their learners

Teaching focus

The same request can sound efficient to one listener and abrupt to another. We help learners examine the relationship, purpose and situation, then practise language they can choose for their own communication.

Our suggested routine

1. Am I describing a specific context or making a national generalisation?
2. Is this based on evidence, personal experience or assumption?
3. Have I made clear that other speakers may behave differently?
4. Does the learner need this information for their goals?
5. Am I presenting my own preference as the correct English way?
6. Can learners disagree or offer alternatives?
7. Am I asking anyone to represent an entire culture?
8. Does the activity allow learners not to share personal information?
9. What communication strategy can learners take away?

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