HOW TO ENGLISH
With Gav & Em
Free teacher practice card

Should English Teachers Set Homework for Adult Learners?

S06E08 | For teachers to adapt to their learners

Purpose

There is no single answer for every learner. In S06E08, Em argues that adult learners should have a choice, while Gav expects learners who want results to make time for practice. Their disagreement points to a useful first step: agree what homework is for and what feels realistic.

Try this in your next lesson

Ask one adult learner to choose between a five-minute review, a short recording and an optional listening task. Agree when you will discuss it.

Our suggested routine

☐ Ask whether the learner wants homework and what they can realistically manage.

☐ Keep the task clearly connected to the lesson.

☐ Offer a shorter option when time is limited.

☐ Check whether the task was actually useful, not only whether it was completed.

☐ Review the arrangement if homework is repeatedly skipped.

A classroom example

Our suggested follow-up is to offer one small task with a clear return point. For example, ask the learner to record three sentences using language from today and bring one question next time. If the recording never arrives, ask whether the difficulty was time, instructions or the language itself. Change that part of the arrangement before adding more work.

After the attempt

What worked? What needs another model or a smaller step? Note one change for next time.

Read the full explanation and examples:
howtoenglishpod.com - S06E08 article