



What Should Teachers Do When an English Activity Flops?

S06E06 | For teachers to adapt to their learners

Teaching focus

Pause long enough to find out what has gone wrong, then decide whether to demonstrate the task again, adjust it or move on. Confused instructions, a prompt that invites different language and an activity learners have already mastered need different responses.

Our suggested routine

1. Pause and check whether learners have mastered the task, misunderstood it or followed a different valid direction.
2. Choose the immediate aim: focused language practice or a developing conversation.
3. Demonstrate one complete example and let a learner try the next.
4. Simplify the confusing part or clearly adopt a workable alternative format.
5. Move on when appropriate and note the change needed before using the material again.

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