

Dr. Mohammad Akram  
English Language Department,  
Jazan University, Jizan, KSA

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### *How to Effectively Teach English Writing Skills to ESL students?*

#### **Abstract**

Writing is one of those skills that deeply require students to be motivated and encouraged, if they are not involved/interested in writing task, don't have a reason to write, the task set forth won't be an effective learning experience. Writing is based on reading skill, in the same way speaking skill depends on listening. While writing "How to Effectively Teach English Writing Skills to ESL students", it is bore in mind the practicalities; need of situations, need of hours for the welfare of the students.

**Keywords:** Teaching Writing Skill in non-native countries

#### **Introduction**

##### **A- Choosing the skill we'll focus on**

Ask ourselves these questions-

- What level are the students?
- What is their average age?
- Why are they taking this course?
- Do they need writing skills for specific reasons? (Business correspondence, etc...)
- What do we expect them to produce?

Once we're clear on the skills our students need to develop, move on to the next step.

##### **B- Choosing activities or writing exercises**



There is a wide variety of writing tasks we may assign our students to help them polish their writing skills. For example:

- **Business email writing**

This is a skill that more and more ESL students require these days as they apply for jobs in international or multinational companies, or move to English-speaking countries. We should cover emails as many as possible in our ESL classes.

#### → **Essays/letters/stories for international examinations**

Essays writing practice is also important that meet their specific requirements like TOEFL.

We can provide students with plenty of samples of the different types of written tasks i.e.: report, article, review, letter or short stories.

**The more they practice they learn more.**

In-class writing is ok, but we may also ask them to do some writing for homework.

#### → **Descriptions**



A very simple writing task is to supply something that students may describe. This is acceptable to any level. From a written description of a photo, we may ask students to make them as detailed as we wish, from 50 to 200 words.

#### → **Writing prompts**

Writing prompts are extremely useful, great starts for a writing task as per their standard. Here are some examples of writing prompts:

Writing prompts are extremely useful, great starts for a writing task as per their standard. Here are some examples of writing prompt; choosing the topics according to their curiosities; we can hint them some words of their use.

*We can ask them to write, for example-*

#### → **Writing about family/friends**

- \*What are the three things you like in the country and why?
- \*Write about one of your favorite movies (Tum bin...) and why you liked it so much.
- \*What is your favorite food and why?

## →Journal writing



We can ask students to bring a blank notebook, assign topics on a weekly basis, depending on their level. Journal writing is a great way to get students to write on a regular basis, plus keep track of their progress as far as writing skills are concerned.

## →Common writing Problems in English for ESL Students

Writing in English can be a challenging task for students who learn English as a second language. Some ESL students' social and cultural background prevents them from writing about subjects they consider taboo. Students may also experience difficulties with-

\*Form

\*Morphology

\* Vocabulary and syntax

**Those are different in English and their native language.**

## Suggestions →

1. Choose writing objective.
2. Find a writing exercise that helps to focus on the specific objective.
3. If possible, tie the subject matter to student needs.
4. Provide positive feedback through correction activities that call on students to correct their own mistakes.
5. Have students revise work.
6. Try to commence the class in a interesting way.

→**Points to remember**

\*What will students be able to do after the exercise?

\*Keep focus to one area of English writing skills.

\*Keeping Students Involved.

**References**

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2. Reading Interactions 1, 2 by Elaine Kirn for Middle East students
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