

How to deal with unmotivated students.

Вінницький національний технічний університет

Анотація В роботі розглядається проблема внутрішньої та зовнішньої мотивації у студентів, які вивчають англійську мову. Запропоновано декілька підходів у роботі зі студентами без мотивації до навчання.

Ключові слова: внутрішня та зовнішня мотивація, навчання реального середовища, метод граматичного відкриття.

Abstract *Intrinsic and extrinsic motivation of ESL students is considered. Several approaches on dealing with unmotivated students are suggested.*

Key words: *intrinsic and extrinsic motivation, realia, discovery grammar method.*

Every teacher faces a challenge to deal with a student who is not motivated to study. This is the toughest task a teacher can have. The best approach to yield it is to motivate students the right way, that is from the inside rather than from the outside.

Motivation can be categorized into two types: intrinsic and extrinsic [1]. Intrinsic motivation is a behavior that is driven by satisfying internal rewards. Students are intrinsically motivated when they enjoy doing an activity.

Extrinsic motivation is a drive that comes from outside of a person. Students are extrinsically motivated when they want to gain a reward (like a mark) or avoid a punishment.

When someone is not interested in a subject – meaning they have no intrinsic motivation to learn about it – giving rewards can get them to participate in the activity, which might then spark some intrinsic motivation within them. In other words, extrinsic motivation can lead to intrinsic one.

As a teacher, we always hope that students already have intrinsic motivation to learn English. We believe that they have a goal in mind whether it is related to business, academics or something else, and English is necessary for them to reach their goal. With that in mind, too much praise or extrinsic motivation can actually hinder their learning. That is why students will perform better when you focus on motivating them intrinsically rather than extrinsically. It means encouraging their already present desire to learn rather than tempting them to learn with external rewards.

There are different approaches in motivating students to learn English [2]. First tactic is to make class communicative.

Language learners get a rush when they can successfully translate their thoughts into words and get their points across. Aside from the fun of communicating, it is also what most students want to get out of learning English. In other words, that is where their intrinsic motivation lies – they are already eager to be able to communicate in English for their own reason. For some students, their goal is communication in business. For others, their goal is to communicate during their advanced studies in English. Still others want to explore the world and will use English to travel and connect with people all over the globe. The more we encourage students to communicate in class, the more motivated they will be. They will see that they are accomplishing their goals even as they are learning and the success and achievements will make them readier to learn.

How can we make our class more communicative?

- Group activities are a great way to make it. We can get students using the language that they already know to work together to accomplish something.
- Arrange students desks to make larger tables to encourage communication among them.
- Use the discovery grammar method [3]. Give students a grammar worksheet with the answers already in the blanks before you teach the grammatical concept. Then challenge groups of two or three students to examine the answers and see if they can figure out the rule on their own.
- A flipped classroom is another great way to give a communication center stage in the classroom. A flipped classroom turns tradition in its head by assigning instructional material to be completed at home and then uses classtime for extension, practice and deepening activities, in other words putting language to use through communication.

Keep the class communicative by minimizing teacher talk time [4]. The less we talk, the more the students will be talking, and that means they will be putting their language knowledge to work.

Secondly, another way to keep things practical in class is to use realia whenever possible. Realia is just another way to say materials that are created with native speakers in mind [5]. Students do not like doing things that are pointless. They want to know that there is a purpose behind what they do even if the activity is as simple as digging a hole. You can stress purpose in your activities when you keep them practical. Bringing realia into a classroom will make students more prepared for what they will find outside the classroom walls. ESL-targeted materials tend to have simpler grammar and vocabulary, which is great when you are just learning English, but not great when everything encountered outside the ESL classroom isn't adjusted for people who are still learning. Project-based learning is a good way to keep things focused on reality.

Role-playing is another way to stay focused on the practical. Giving students real-life situations they are likely to encounter in the outside world will give them a chance to practice for the future in a safe environment.

The third approach is to make class fun.

This is a surefire way to up intrinsic motivation levels

When students are having a good time, they will be more engaged in learning. Their motivation will come from them rather than from you. You just have to find the best ways to help your students have a good time while they learn. The following can be used during a class:

- Social media. We can have great conversations with friend and strangers alike when we put ourselves out there on social media. Try having students write short posts for Facebook, Twitter or Instagram or start a class blog and have students write the posts and respond to comments from their classmates as well as the world at large.
- Invite pop culture into class. Students love movies, magazines and contemporary music. Use them in class for listening activities, reading activities or to learn new vocabulary.
- Gamify your lessons. Using games with students is a highly effective way to teach vocabulary and grammatical structures. We can use Scrabble, Scattergories and Charades.

Conclusion

Generally speaking, motivating students is a part of every teacher's job and we must admit it's not an easy job. There's no universal strategy to motivate students that will work at any class with any students but there's a lot to choose from. We should be attentive and creative, hard working and adventurous in our profession to do our best – help others in learning English.

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Кот Сергій Олександрович, кандидат філологічних наук, старший викладач кафедри іноземних мов Вінницького національного технічного університету kot.sergii@vntu.edu.ua

Sergii Kot, Candidate of Philology Sciences, senior lecturer, the Foreign Languages Department, Vinnytsia National Technical University, Vinnytsia kot.sergii@vntu.edu.ua