

Effective and personalized presentations for teaching efl/esp

In the ever growing world of technology, the popularity of computers to generate presentations is growing. Contemporary laptop computers coupled with many of the common software packages offer flexibility to the presenter. A professional looking presentation can be prepared ahead of time and displayed using this exciting technology. High tech is wonderful when it allows us to illustrate a point in the more effective way. However, there is a limit. If the students, their minds, are not engaged in the presentation, the presenter fails as a teacher. The process of preparing presentations should be focused both on the needs of interaction and the educational needs of the students. The first question presenters should ask themselves before giving a presentation is, 'What is in it for the student on a practical, real world level?' If they are not involved, if they are mind-numbed in a dark room, watching and listening only, that is a one-way process. Interactivity implies a continuing two-way process, each mind should be working and creating an internal dialogue.

Many presenters are prepared formally, they simply read out what is written on slides and hope that because of so much technical confidence they would be highly respected. The problem is that in this case the message is totally lost. The strongest attachment people have to any idea is the attachment they get with the presenter, the person who gives the information. Trying to keep an audience 'attached' in the dark, with a lot of pictures and very little live presence is not usually memorable or helpful.

We have found that minimum tables and pictures skillfully selected and tailored to the students needs is the best for the audience. Every time presenters do that, the feedback from the audience shows that they are on track. In case the participants do not feel a connection to the presenter as a human being, the information is distorted and such presenters are set up as a poor role model for any person who would like to be a presenter in future.