

# Ideas for Teachers

To Help their ESOL Students Develop their Writing Skills

## Basics

1. Writing is a skill *developed* through time, practice.
2. Emphasize the communicative element of writing.
3. Help writing in English become a habit for your students, something done regularly.
4. Convey to your students the importance of writing. Develop student “buy-in.”
5. Include students’ writing – past and present – into the class, as reading material, topics for discussion, and models for writing assignments. Consider compiling your students’ writing – descriptions of their countries, personal stories, recipes....

## When Lesson Planning

6. Plan writing activities whenever and however you can. Connect writing with other class lessons – grammar, reading, speaking, computer/digital literacy, cultures, field trips....
7. Be student-centered, participatory. Have students write on topics of relevance, interest to them. Let them participate in choosing writing topics
8. Keep in mind the objective(s) of different writing activities.
9. Plan lessons with objectives that are level-appropriate. Bear in mind your students’ capabilities, how much you can expect from them.
10. Clearly communicate objectives, expectations of writing activities to your students.
11. Provide models for students when possible.
12. Scaffold writing assignments.
13. Breakdown more involved, formal writing into smaller parts.

## When Giving Feedback

14. Be selective in the correction of students’ writing. Vary the kind and amount of correction you do depending on the kind of assignment and objective. Don’t reduce writing to an exercise in error avoidance.
15. Remember to provide positive feedback, reinforcement. Note improvement, progress.
16. Try to give both whole-class and individual student feedback.
17. Review, discuss students’ writing with them personally, as time allows.
18. Promote peer feedback.

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2012