



# Secrets for Success: The first few years of teaching ESL

Agenda:

Build a community

Pedagogy: some basics for ESL teachers

The adult brain

Websites and Apps, materials

Tribute to Rassias Method



**with Debbie Centamore**

**@englishwithdebbie**

# Are you comfortable?

- What is your strategy?
  - What can we do to make students more comfortable?
- Be in a good mood
  - Make a mistake
  - Model bouncing back
  - Play a game

# ABE is *survival* English

- No poetry
- Use cognates
- Talk about food
- Choose **ONE** answer and stick to it



# Ask questions

Tell me a situation where you must speak English

- Base your vocab lessons on these answers
- Ask every class what they need



Gloves



Mop



Sweep



squeegee



sponge



feather duster



Wipe



Detergent



Rinse



bucket (also pail)



dustpan and brush



duster



scrub brush



cloths



rubber gloves

# Welcome: Fancy version

**Welcome to Level 3 English**

Teacher: Debbie Contact: Whatsapp: (508) 735- 7375



In this class we will study:

Past Tense:

Regular		Irregular	
Talk	Talked	Do	Did
Work	Worked	Make	Made
Call	Called	Go	Went

Vocabulary:

Parts of the Body	Schedule Words	Frequency Words
Head, elbow, thigh, shoulder, chest, toe	Once a week, once a month, twice a week, weekly, daily	Always, never, sometimes, usually, often

Making appointment on the phone:

- Can I make an appointment for...?
- Who's calling...?
- Can I speak with...?



-----cut here-----

Tell me:

- When do you have the **Obligation** to speak English?
  - o At work ?
  - o With the doctor?
  - o With your child's teacher?

Tell me more:

- What is your job?
  - o Painter
  - o Construction
  - o Gas station
  - o Restaurant
  - o Uber driver
  - o Bakery
  - o Other: \_\_\_\_\_

- Tell me about a situation where you had the obligation to speak English:

- Is there anything I should know?

# Welcome: Basic version

Welcome to Level 3 English

Teacher: Debbie Contact: WhatsApp 508 735 7375

In this class we will study:

Past tense verbs:

Regular:

- example: talk, talked  
work, worked  
call, called

Irregular:

- example: was, were  
do, did  
made, made  
go, went

Frequency words: always, sometimes, never

Vocabulary: parts of the body

schedule words: once a week, once a month, twice a week

making appointments on the phone, "Can I make an appointment for...?"

-----cut here-----

Tell me:

When do you have the OBLIGATION to speak English?

at work? with the doctor? with your child's teacher?

Tell me more:

# Assumptions About Second Language Learning and Acquisition

## True or False?

## Thoughts

1. The younger the person, the more skilled he will be in acquiring a second language.

False. Skills are learned so adults have more skills. Sound discrimination yes.

2. While learning, second language learners create their own interlanguage which has a structure somewhat between the native language and L2.

True. Sounds jumbled, will work itself out if person continues to learn.

3. The more time students spend in second language context, the quicker they learn the language.

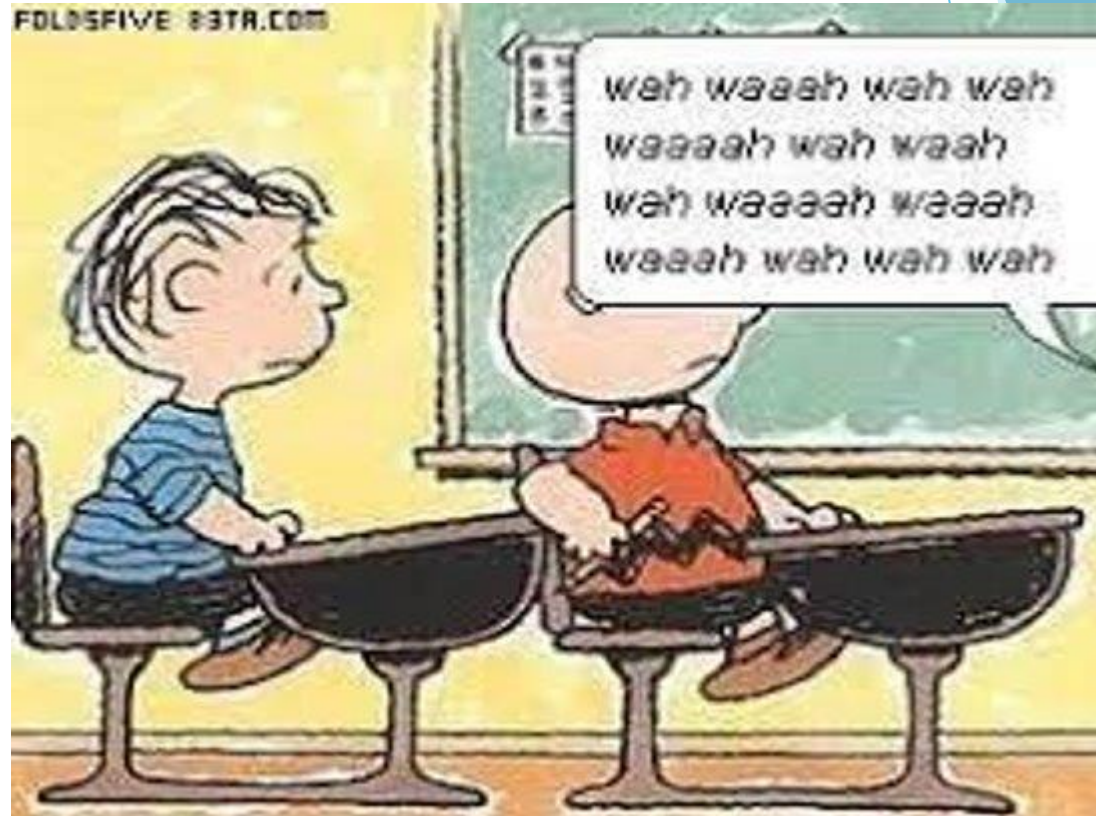
False. They need comprehensible input, not simply quantity.

# Assumptions About Second Language Learning and Acquisition

True or False?	Thoughts
4. The culture of students doesn't affect how long it takes them to learn English.	False.
5. Students should be strongly encouraged to speak English from the first day.	80/ 20 Talking Rule Students 80% You 20% Silent Period exists.

# Say less.

- Avoid the “cloud”
- Use comprehensible input always





# The adult brain

Adults learn differently

1

## Grass analogy

You have to walk on the grass a lot to make a pathway

2

## Fossilization

Old habits are hard to change, both theoretically and in practice

3

## Attitude towards school

Embarrassed students drop out

# Student behavior “issues”

Adults learn differently

1

## Grass analogy

You have to walk on the grass a lot to make a pathway

2

## Fossilization

Old habits are hard to change, both theoretically and in practice

3

## Attitude towards school

Embarrassed students drop out

# Let's talk about pronunciation

## Secret:

Syllable counting helps tremendously

## Speaking slowly

When you speak slowly, maintain "native" pronunciation

## Letter "t"

Between 2 vowels has a sound of "d" or for Brazilians, "r"

Phonemic awareness and memory. You can one without the other

## L1 interference

Letter "t" at the end of words must be taught as a full stop

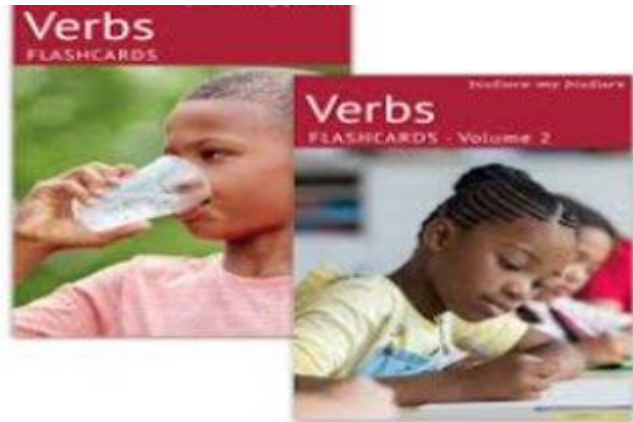
## Unique sounds

"Th" or theta, is hard for cultural and L1 reasons

# Let's talk about *differentiation*

## What?

Meeting students where they are



First Literacy Professional Development Workshop

Give students varying tasks based on knowledge



Use picture cards with \_no\_ words



# Change it up!

- Do you know your learning style?
- Do you know your students' learning styles?
- Change the modality every 20 minutes! While one is learning others are fading...



# Game to engage all:



- Each student brings in a small object
- Put objects in a box, but don't let other students see the object
- Teacher: write down WHO is putting each object in the box
- Call 3 students to sit in front
- Play: "This is mine"

# Excellent websites

## Activities for ESL Students

a4esl.org

es, tests, exercises and puzzles to help you learn English as a Second Language (I  
t of *The Internet TESL Journal (iteslj.org)* has thousands of contributions by many

Category	Tw
uzzes	Bilin
	Arabic-English
	Bulgarian-English
	Burmese (Myanmar)-English
	Catalan-English
	Chinese-English
	Creole-English
	Croatian-English
	Czech-English
	Danish-English

[A4ESL.org](http://A4ESL.org)

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My \_\_\_\_\_ for next year is to learn 100 new vocabulary words.

14

0 Answers

Skip

goal achievement

point coach

[Kahoot!](http://Kahoot!)

YouGlish for English

characteristics

AI US UK AUS

How to pronounce **characteristics** in English (1 out of 11065):

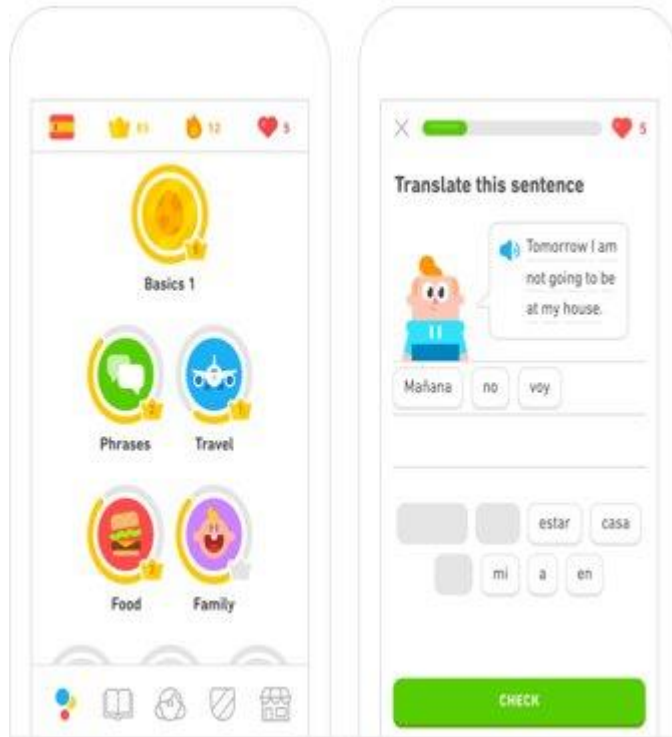
Seeking The Aesthetic Experience

0:22 / 2:48

chief **characteristics** of this altered state of

[YouGlish](http://YouGlish)

# Excellent websites



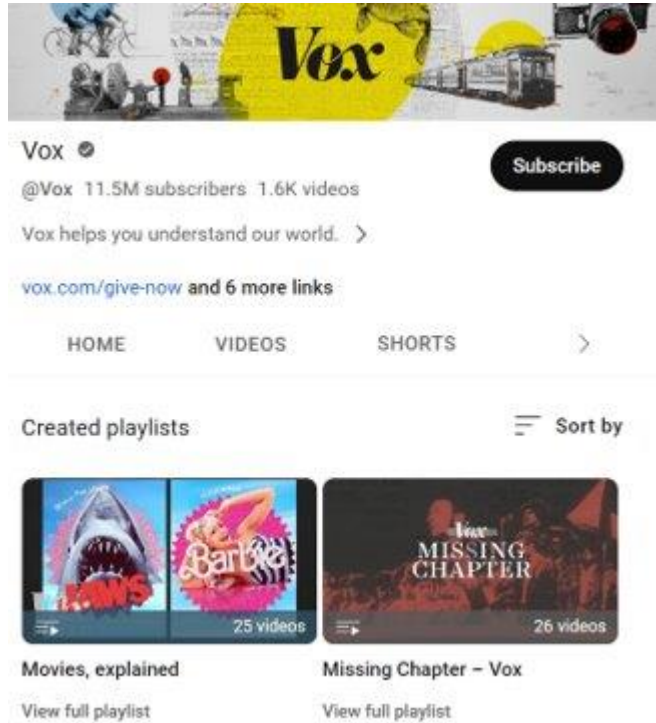
APRENDE INGLÉS ROB y JENNY

## APRENDE INGLÉS ROB y JENNY

- 1 **COLONEL** Sounds of American English Course 1:15 Rachel's English
- 2 The Sounds of American English The UH [ʌ] Vowel - How to make the UH... 3:21 Rachel's English
- 3 The Sounds of American English The AH [ɑ] Vowel - How to make the AH... 3:13 Rachel's English
- 4 The Sounds of American English The AW [ɔ] Vowel - How to make the AW... 6:26 Rachel's English

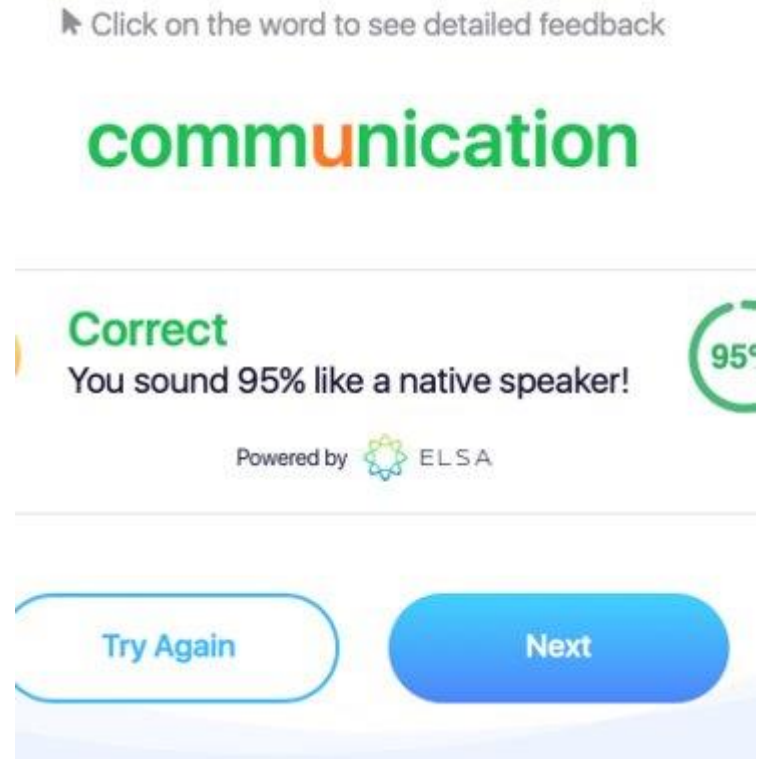
## Rachel's English



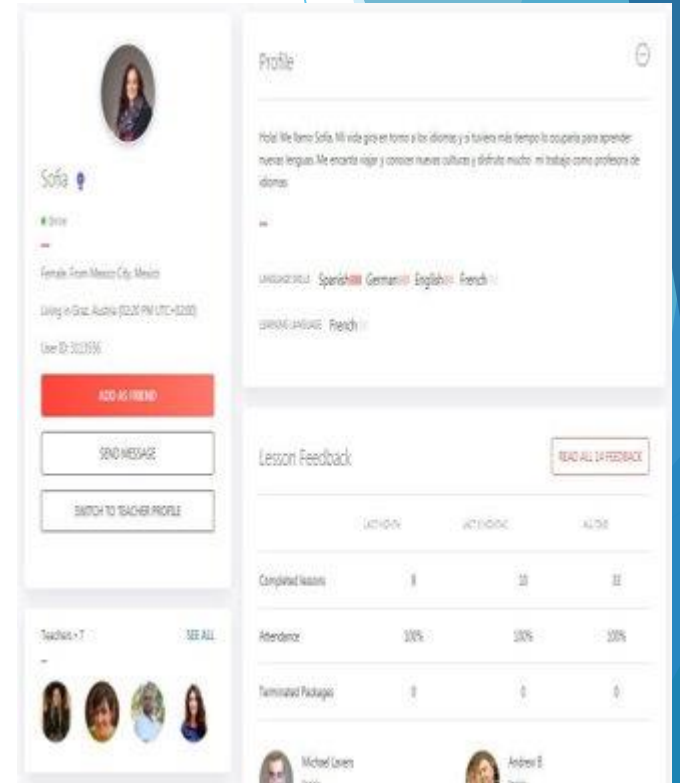


[YouTube: Vox](#)

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[ElsaSpeak](#)



[italki](#) - :o

## Excellent resources



<https://www.easyenglishnews.com/>

## COFFEE DRINKERS MAY LIVE LONGER

Jun 18, 2022

According to new research, coffee drinkers may live longer than other people - even when they take their coffee with a little sugar.



*A cup of black coffee (source)*

Researchers at Southern Medical University in Guangzhou, China, studied the health data of UK residents over a seven-year period.

They found that moderate coffee drinkers, those who drank from 1.5 to 3.5 cups per day, were the least likely to have died during the period. What's more, those who put up to a teaspoon of sugar in their coffee, fared better than those who did not.

<https://eslnewsstories.com/articles/2022-06-18-coffee-drinkers-may-live-longer/>



Do you have any questions?  
Debbie Centamore  
508 735 7375

# Thank you!



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