

CORRECTIVE FEEDBACK STRATEGIES

providing feedback to improve learner's performance without discouragement

---## Positive Reinforcement for Adult ESL and ABE Learners

Why Positive Reinforcement Matters

- **Boosts Motivation:** Encouragement increases students' motivation to learn and persist.
- **Builds Confidence:** Positive reinforcement helps students gain confidence in their abilities.
- **Enhances Engagement:** Supportive feedback fosters a more engaged and active learning environment.

Key Strategies for Positive Reinforcement

1. **Be Specific and Genuine**

- **Specific Praise:** Focus on particular achievements or improvements.
 - Example: "Your pronunciation of the new vocabulary words was excellent today!"
- **Authenticity:** Ensure your praise is sincere to build trust and rapport.

2. **Use Constructive Feedback Models**

- **The Sandwich Model A.:**
 - **Start with Positive Feedback:** Begin by highlighting something done well.
 - **Provide Constructive Criticism:** Offer suggestions for improvement.
 - **End with Encouragement:** Conclude with more positive feedback.
- **Example:** "Your essay has a clear structure. Consider expanding on your conclusion. Overall, your writing has improved greatly!"

Providing constructive feedback to adult ESL (English as a Second Language) and ABE (Adult Basic Education) students requires sensitivity, clarity, and encouragement. Here are some effective models and strategies for giving feedback:

. ***The Sandwich Model B***

- **Positive Start**: Begin with something the student did well to set a positive tone.
- **Constructive Criticism**: Address areas needing improvement with specific, actionable suggestions.
- **Positive End**: Conclude with encouragement or praise to motivate continued effort.

Example:

- Positive Start: "Your pronunciation has improved, and it's clear you've been practicing."
- Constructive Criticism: "Let's work on your use of past tense verbs. Remember, for regular verbs, you add -ed."
- Positive End: "Keep up the great work, and you'll master these verbs in no time!"

The STAR Model

- **Situation**: Describe the context in which the issue arises.
- **Task**: Specify what the student needs to do.
- **Action**: Provide detailed feedback on what the student did.
- **Result**: Explain the outcome and suggest how to improve.

Example:

- Situation: "In yesterday's writing assignment..."
- Task: "...the goal was to use complex sentences."
- Action: "You wrote mostly simple sentences, which limited the depth of your analysis."
- Result: "Try combining some sentences using conjunctions like 'because' or 'although' to enhance your writing."

The 3R Model: Recognize, Refine, and Reflect

- **Recognize**: Acknowledge what the student did well.
- **Refine**: Offer specific advice on how to improve.
- **Reflect**: Encourage the student to think about their learning process.

****Example:****

- Recognize: "I noticed you used a variety of vocabulary in your essay."
- Refine: "Let's refine your sentence structure to make your points clearer. Try to use more transitions between ideas."
- Reflect: "Think about how the structure affects the clarity of your writing and what strategies you might use in the future."

****The Feedback Sandwich with a Focus on Goals****

- ****Goal Reminder****: Start by reminding the student of their learning goals.
- ****Feedback****: Provide detailed feedback related to their progress towards these goals.
- ****Next Steps****: End with clear steps or strategies to achieve their goals.

****Example:****

- Goal Reminder: "You're working on improving your speaking fluency for presentations."
- Feedback: "Your last presentation showed good use of vocabulary, but you hesitated a few times. Practicing transitions might help."
- Next Steps: "Try recording yourself and focusing on smooth transitions between points."

3. **Incorporate Verbal and Non-Verbal Cues**

- ****Positive Language****: Use encouraging words and phrases to uplift students.
 - Examples: "Great job," "Well done," "You're making progress."
- ****Non-Verbal Cues****: Use smiles, nods, and gestures to convey approval and support.

4. **Set Realistic Goals and Celebrate Achievements**

- ****Achievable Targets****: Help students set realistic and manageable goals.
- ****Celebrate Milestones****: Recognize and celebrate progress, no matter how small.
 - Example: "You've mastered the past tense. Let's celebrate this achievement!"

5. ****Open-Ended Questions****

-** Use questions that prompt learners to think critically about their performance.

Open-ended questions are an excellent way to encourage adult ESL and ABE students to think critically about their performance. These questions can prompt reflection, self-assessment, and deeper understanding. Here are some examples:

Questions for Reflection on Learning

1. ****What strategies have you used that worked well in your learning process? Why do you think they were effective?***
2. ****How do you feel about your progress in this course so far? What areas do you feel most confident in, and why?***
3. ****What challenges have you faced recently, and how have you overcome them?***
4. ****Can you describe a moment when you felt you made significant progress? What contributed to that success?***

Questions for Self-Assessment and Evaluation

5. ****What aspects of your work are you most proud of, and why?***
6. ****If you were to redo a recent assignment or project, what would you do differently, and why?***
7. ****How do you prioritize the skills or topics you want to improve on? What steps will you take to address these areas?***
8. ****In what ways do you think your communication skills have improved, and what evidence do you have of this improvement?***

Questions for Goal Setting and Planning

9. ****What are your short-term and long-term goals in learning English, and how do you plan to achieve them?***
10. ****How do you plan to apply what you've learned in real-world situations outside the classroom?***
11. ****What resources or support do you need to help you reach your goals?***
12. ****How can you incorporate feedback from teachers or peers into your learning strategy?***

Questions to Encourage Critical Thinking

13. ****How does your understanding of English impact your ability to engage with different cultures or communities?***
14. ****What connections can you make between the topics we've covered and your personal experiences or knowledge?***
15. ****How does the ability to communicate in English influence your personal or professional opportunities?***

16. ****What are the benefits and challenges of learning English as an adult, and how do you manage them?***

Questions to Foster a Growth Mindset

17. ****What mistakes have you learned from recently, and how have they helped you grow as a learner?***

18. ****How do you respond to setbacks in your learning, and what can you do to maintain motivation?***

19. ****What are some skills or areas where you've seen the most improvement, and what contributed to this progress?***

20. ****How do you celebrate your successes, both big and small, in your language learning journey?***

Building a Supportive Learning Environment

1. Create a Safe and Inclusive Space*

- ****Open Communication:*** Encourage students to share their thoughts and ask questions.
- ****Empathy and Understanding:*** Be approachable and responsive to students' needs. Build trust and rapport by sharing a bit about yourself

2. Address Challenges and Barriers*

- ****Identify Challenges:*** Understand common challenges faced by students, such as language barriers.
- ****Provide Support:*** Offer strategies and resources to help students overcome obstacles.

3. Reflection and Continuous Improvement

- ****Reflect on Feedback:*** Regularly evaluate your feedback approach and its effectiveness.
- ****Seek Student Input:*** Encourage students to share their thoughts on your feedback.
- ****Continue Learning:*** Stay informed about new strategies and techniques for positive reinforcement.

4. Be Patient and Encouraging

****Allow learners to progress at their own pace.**

5. **Show Respect for Cultural Differences

****Learn about the learner's cultural background**

****Be mindful of cultural sensitivities in communication and content**

6. **Support Emotional Well-Being**

**** Be empathetic and understanding. Recognize the learner's challenges and feelings.****

**** Offer support and encouragement during difficult times****

7. **Listen Actively **

- ** Pay full attention to the learner's words and body language.****
- ** Provide feedback that shows you understand their concerns****