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ELL Initial Thoughts
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What do teachers need to know about students who are learning to speak English?

Teachers should know that these students do not know every English word. They are learning. Therefore, these students have to work twice as hard to understand because they are learning through the use of a language that is not their native language. Many often have the misconception that ELL students do not understand English which mean that these students have a learning disability. It takes time to learn a new language along with your native language.

What are some general instructional practices that can be beneficial to students who are learning to speak English?

Using hand motions during lesson helps ELL learners tremendously. Showing pictures, video, or other visuals is a great strategy to help ELL understand and learn new words. It also helps when teachers have a classroom environment with printed words labeling items within the classroom. Teachers should often use modeling when teaching ELL students. I can only imagine how slowing down your speech and repeating sentences or words can be very helpful.

What should teachers consider when testing students who are learning to speak English?

When testing ELL students, teachers should base the accommodations based off each individual case. A beginning ELL student may need different accommodations than an advanced ELL student. Depending on the student, teachers may consider maybe including pictures or visuals when testing students. Maybe students' test should be taken by computer or even read to them. ELL students may feel better in a smaller, testing environment depending on that student's level of understanding the language.