

9 Strategies to Differentiate Instruction for ELL Students

In the United States, school districts are required to provide ESL instruction in the classroom, to any and all enrolled students whose primary language is not English. However, studies indicate it takes approximately five to seven years to read and write in a new language. How do we make curriculum accessible for English Language Learners (ELLs)?

- 1 Use curriculum focused on content to allow students to learn the essentials, without getting confused and frustrated with the “fluff”. Remove unnecessary material, words, etc., that can distract from the content.
- 2 Deliver the content in “chunks”, so ELL students can digest a little at a time, and then continue to build their knowledge and understanding of the material.
- 3 Provide background knowledge, sometimes with native language support, to allow ELLs to tie new information to something familiar. This helps students as they decode information; first trying to understand in their native language, and then transferring that understanding into English.
- 4 Define key vocabulary, multiple-meaning words, and figurative language.
- 5 Use audio and visual supports.
- 6 Provide multiple learning opportunities to reinforce key concepts and vocabulary.
- 7 Provide cross-content application of concepts, to help tie learning together, making it more comprehensible.
- 8 Provide curriculum that addresses all four language processes.
- 9 Incorporate technology with effective online programs that provide:
 - Individualized instruction
 - Opportunities to practice in various contexts
 - Ability to work at their own pace
 - Effective data for educators to determine areas of strengths, and areas of focus, in order to drive instruction



How ESL ReadingSmart can help your ELLs

ESL ReadingSmart is a web-based learning environment designed to accelerate English language development for ELLs. Instructional materials are written at a variety of English proficiency levels. This helps teachers solve the challenge of teaching ELLs in multilevel classrooms. Lessons are written at a specific ESL level and support a standards-based English language acquisition program that integrates listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills.

ESL ReadingSmart is designed to help educators reach all of their students in the ways that they like to learn, and teachers are given targeted lesson plans that address each of these language processes. ESL ReadingSmart provides audio and visual support, and the activities are presented in a variety of formats that reinforce concepts and provide students with multiple opportunities to apply what they have learned.

Listening

Students must learn to distinguish sounds, apply knowledge, understand vocabulary, extract meaning, and use active listening comprehension skills.



As students work through ESL ReadingSmart passages and lessons, they are presented with the opportunity to listen to and read passages. Additionally, the built-in translator feature helps students translate unfamiliar words or phrases in their native language, making decoding easier for them.

Speaking

Students must demonstrate English language proficiency through spoken language.



Students and teachers are given activities within ESL ReadingSmart through which they can practice their speaking skills with their peers and instructors. As additional support, the recorder feature provides students with the opportunity to listen to a passage and then record their voice. They can then hear how their pronunciation compares to that of the narrator.

Reading

Students must use print to derive meaning from the text.



The Student Component of ESL ReadingSmart includes a Newcomers section and a four-level reading program with Lexile® measures that ensures students are fully supported through multicultural, multi-genre reading selections.

Writing

Students must construct correct sentences, including a variety of sentence types and styles.



ESL ReadingSmart gives students multiple opportunities through which they can practice their writing. They are also exposed to hands-on activities like quizzes and games.

Contact us today for more information!
www.edmentum.com
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