

BREAKTHROUGH: TEACHING STUDENTS WHO START LEARNING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

According to a new poll from the Walton Family Foundation and Gallup there is a change in the attitude of Gen Z towards AI, compared to last year. They fear that using AI might weaken their knowledge and even ability to study. On the other hand, the number of teachers who support using AI in a class has also decreased [1].

In our opinion, there is another thought-provoking fact. According to an article in the BBC the Swedish government is proposing the use of physical books, paper and pens in classrooms in an effort to stop the decline in literacy rates [2].

Is it a sign that AI usage is not as unreplaceable as we might have thought at first?

In our opinion there is a background for these concerns. To prevent the studying process from becoming a routine of expressing similar thoughts and writing an easy AI-done task, we need to set an example and return to the good old methodological basis of teaching.

There are a lot of students who have a bad level of English language. In our opinion, every language starts with a good base of knowledge. If you know how it works, you can just expand your vocabulary, grammar, and broaden your listening and reading abilities.

But young generations tend to like interactive and quickly-changing activities. How to teach and give basic knowledge? How to give a good background? How to make their English work outside the classroom?

When there is a class of students with 0 level of English, the best way to start is with the alphabet. Teachers may use different techniques of teaching like flashcards, the writing on a board, spelling words of a particular topic. You may also include some slang words or even everyday English phrases.

The next stimulating thing is tongue twisters. They will help to make the learning process more effective.

After this we recommend teachers to start reading A1 level texts aloud in a classroom. The best way to do this is to set an example and read such a text by yourself, previously explaining all the unknown words and grammar. This may include a Present Simple Tense topic. The more you read, the better. It is important not to use AI or any AI tools during your classes. The more visual materials you have (flashcards, graphics, pictures), the better.

In conclusion we would like to say that AI isn't a threat, but we need to learn how to use it in the best way we can. Our task is to make it a tool, but not a for-us-thinking-machine, especially in terms of studying and teaching.

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