

ELL Quick Tip

Do you have an ELL student and wonder how to help him/her in the classroom?
Then the ELL Quick Tip is for you!

Tip #1

Start and end each lesson by telling students your content objective/s.

Examples:

Today we will learn the causes of the civil war.

Today we will be following a drop as it travels through the water cycle.

Our goal today is to find three different ways to solve a multiplication problem.

Procedure:

- Write your lesson objective on the board or overhead.
- Read the objective aloud to students.
- As you go through the lesson, make reference to the objective/s as appropriate.
- Review your progress toward the objective at the end of the lesson.

IMPORTANT:

Even if time is running short, be sure to stop with about three minutes left to review your progress toward meeting your content objective/s for the day. If you don't 'finish' in one session, discuss that you will pick up where you left off tomorrow.

Here are some ideas for how to review progress toward your content objective/s:

- Have students tell their partner ... (e.g., the causes of the civil war, how the drop travels through the water cycle, three different ways to solve a multiplication problem).
- Have students complete a brief journal entry (e.g., their understanding so far, questions, etc.)
- Conduct a class discussion about what you learned.

Why is this important for ELL students?

English language learners work hard to make sense of what is going on and what is important. When you give students the objective/s for your lesson, you are telling your ELL students that this is the focus. You make it easier for them to make sense of the lesson and focus their attention appropriately. Stating the objective/s at the beginning also helps keep the instruction on topic. Reviewing the objective/s is crucial because it provides closure and allows ELL students to remember what is important.