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Strategies of Teaching Listening Skill

In today's technological age, it is much harder to get and keep students' attention than it was a decade ago. Our students' minds are filled with texts, e-mails, social media updates, and what's going on with their friends. It's a struggle to get our students to actually engage in active listening while we teach. This may be quite a challenge for many of us. But it is possible for students to actively listen as we teach. There are some teaching strategies to help students listen today —

1. Teaching Strategies that Model Good Listening Skills:

many times we are formulating what we want to say next, while trying to listen to what our students are trying to say. Try modeling good listening skills by restarting what the student talking has said.

2. Get To Know your students:

Research shows that students are more likely to listen to a teacher who has taken the time to get to know them versus those who have not. Take the time to really get to know

your students, their hobbies, who their friends are, and so on. And let them get to know who you are. You can easily do this by playing a getting-to-know-you game in the beginning of the school year.

3. Use Hand Signal:

A wonderful way to sharpen those listening skills is to use a non-verbal hand signal. This strategy asks all students to fully participate and it will be obvious if a student wasn't paying attention at the end of the statement.

4. Talk Less:

Most of the time teachers spend the majority of their day talking and lecturing to students. What you want to do is talk less and have students talk more.

5. Utilize Technology:

Listening to others speak is just as informative as listening to you speak. With all of the educational technology that is out there today, why not give that a try? Carefully select a movie, documentary, or app that will teach students about what they are learning. Any of these ideas will be good alternatives.

6. Give Students a Listening Task:

Another great way to inspire active listening is to give students a task. Have students

partner up and discuss what they heard of you, the teacher talk about.

7. Have students "check-in" with Each other:

There will be times when students will miss what you said and instead of interrupting you to find out what that is, you can have them "check-in" with a neighbour.

8. Hold All Students Accountable:

If you really want your students to listen to you when you talk then you must hold them accountable for listening. Instead of giving them all of the notes or key concepts that they need to know, only give them half of them. The other half they will have to listen to you to get.

9. Listening for Questions:

When students have a purpose they are more apt to listen. So, next time you are teaching a lesson, pause after a few minutes and have students write down a question that they have about what they just heard.

10. Break the Monotony:

It's easy to drift to never-never land when you know what the teacher is going to say. Be sure to break the monotony of your lessons and your school day to ensure students are always on their toes.