

English Language Learners

- Whether a student has just moved into your area from another country and does not speak English or you are teaching in an area where English is not the first language for your students, teaching English Language Learners (ELLs) can be challenging. Here are some tips for approaching this unique challenge:
 - Determine what level of language the student has. Keep in mind that their listening skills, speaking skills, reading skills, and writing skills may all be on varying levels.
 - Use many graphic organizers and charts to help the student.
 - Have students use the language skills they already have, but keep building on those skills to move to higher levels.
 - Allow ELLs to work with student partners.
- Make sure that assessment matches the language level of the ELL. Tests and quizzes may need to be shortened, rewritten with simpler terms, or given orally.
- Be intentional about helping ELLs feel included and involved in all aspects of classroom life. Since they probably struggle to contribute academically, give them extra meaningful tasks in classroom and social life so they can still feel a sense of purpose and belonging.
- Consider creating an individualized learning support plan for an ELL to clarify goals for the child as well as what accommodations will be given. Here is a helpful guide to creating a learning support plan: [Learning Support Plans - The Dock for Learning](#)
- Online resources for ELL learning support: [Online Resources for ELL Learning Support and Special Needs - The Dock for Learning](#)

Sources

- Teaching English Language Learners by Karen Birt: [Teaching English Language Learners - The Dock for Learning](#)