



The ESL

newcomer

## Teaching checklist

Your guide to the most important topics and language structures to teach in those first months with ESL newcomers.

# Newcomer teaching checklist

## •Personal and family information

- name, address, phone numbers, age
- spelling of the first and last names
- answering questions about grade, age, school, teacher and where they are from
- family members (words like brother, sister, mother, father, cousin, sibling, aunt, uncle, etc.)

## •Social interaction

- hellos and goodbyes
- asking and thanking
- introduction to peers and non-peers; hand shaking, kissing, etc.
- yes/no questions and answers
- asking for help
- expressing emotions (phrases like I'm sad, I'm happy, etc.)

## •Classroom and school

- items such as books, desks, whiteboard, pens, pencils, computer, etc.
- Class directions (point to, raise your hand, print, copy, turn the page, etc.)
- People who work at school
- Places at school (library, cafeteria, gym)
- Class procedures (announcements, pledge of allegiance, attendance)
- School subjects

## •Time, calendar and weather

- days of the week, months, seasons
- say and write the date
- yesterday, today, tomorrow
- what is the difference between a weekday and weekend
- telling time as well as concepts such as beginning and end, opening and closing, etc.

## • Body parts

- names of body parts
- verbs that are related with the movement and body functions (run, walk, eat, taste, etc.)
- clothing can be included here as well

## •Food

- groups of food (grains, dairy, fruits and vegetables, fats and proteins)
- foods in each of the above-mentioned groups (no need to teach EVERYTHING because there is just so so much. Food that is common in the student's country and in their new country are perfectly fine)
- breakfast, lunch, dinner and what is typically served
- table manners, restaurant manners

## •Shopping

- Money
- Simple math terms (add, subtract, multiply, divide, percent, off, equals, etc.)
- Personnel at the store
- Store departments

## •Directions

- Cardinal directions (N, S, E, W)
- Prepositions
- Location (where in the world are we?)
- Maps

## •Home

- rooms in the house
- furniture
- kitchen tools and appliances

## •The verb “to be” and yes/no questions

- the verb “to be” and its conjugation
- personal pronouns
- simple sentences (This is a book)
- yes/no question formation (Is this a book?)
- typical answers to the yes/no questions (Yes, it is. No, it isn't)
- contractions (it is = it's; I am = I'm, etc.)

## •Wh- questions

- who, what, where, when and why - what these words mean and what the students need to know when answering them (In the beginning, it is perfectly fine to answer these in one word or a phrase).
- how - what does this question ask and how to answer it
- who and where - nouns, what - verbs, when - adverbs and time, why - reason (the word “because”), how - adjectives, adverbs