

Instructional Strategies

Read through the scenarios. Discuss with a partner which instructional strategy could be used to improve the lesson. Brainstorm suggestions you would give the teacher to improve the lesson.

Scenario 1:

The teacher of a novice class wants the students to be able to describe their home. The teacher decides to give the students a list of words in the target. Then the teacher tells the students the vocabulary in English. The teacher then passes out a reading that is a little difficult, so the teacher has to give the explanation in English. When the students are confused about what to write, they ask questions in English and the teacher responds in English, with maybe one or two words in the target language.

What is the problem with this scenario?

The teacher is concerned. What advice would you give this teacher to improve?

Scenario 2:

A Hindi teacher wants to teach a lesson on how to use public transportation. The teacher decides to use a New York City subway map and have the students imagine that they need to go to the Empire State Building. The teacher has them practice dialogues as if they are in New York.

What is the problem with this scenario?

What advice would you give this teacher to improve?

Scenario 3:

The teacher has a novice high class that is a mix of heritage learners and native English-speakers. Since they all tested into the same level, the teacher decides to teach a lesson on heroes. Everyone is given an article to read with comprehension questions to begin the theme.

What is the problem with this scenario?

What advice would you give this teacher to improve?

Scenario 4:

The teacher has a novice mid class and decides that it's time to teach about daily routines. The teacher writes the grammar rules on the board and gives explanation about how to conjugate the verbs. Then the students fill out worksheets to practice. The teacher collects them and grades them. The next day the teacher explains some of the problems with the exercise as the students listen.

What is the problem with this scenario?

What advice would you give this teacher to improve?

Scenario 5:

A teacher has an intermediate class. The teacher decides to have the students translate a text from English into the target language for practice. The text is a paragraph about the history of the bicycle. The students then practice asking each other questions about the article orally. The teacher checks for correctness.

What is the problem with this scenario?

What advice would you give this teacher to improve?