

Writing Tips

Expose your students to short frequent exercises in writing that is closely related to the vocabulary, structures, and topics you have already taught. Exercises should also be varied, practical and related to students' daily lives.

Don't overwhelm the students; begin this program with such simple exercises as addressing envelopes and writing postcards, notes, and shopping lists. Such initial practice will give students enough time to learn the most commonly used words (which are also the most irregularly spelled), such as pronouns, articles, prepositions, and auxiliary verbs. Once students have learned the basics, gradually build up to longer and more complex exercises.

Suggestions:

1. Assign writing exercises that reinforce or review previously learned material.
2. When giving a writing assignment as homework, reserve the last part of the class period for writing. This will allow you to walk around the classroom to make sure everyone understands the assignment.
3. When correcting the students' papers, correct only serious mistakes in structure and spelling. Praise the correct use of recently taught vocabulary and structures.
4. If you find mistakes that several students are making, note them and teach a special lesson based on these mistakes.
5. To include the entire class in the correcting process, copy onto the chalkboard or on a handout these incorrect sentences taken from their papers. Have a class discussion on how best to correct the mistakes.

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