



## HOW TO TEACH ENGLISH EASILY TO STUDENTS LEARNING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

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**Annotation:** *Teaching sports to students who're intermediate proficiency and higher is incredibly fun because you're able to use more real material in your lessons. Even your beginner students who have developed the basic reading skills to understand the gist of newspaper articles can benefit from this activity, provided you condense the stories and simplify any difficult language.*

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Just like how athletes stretch and lightly practice before each game, your students also need to warm up before each lesson—especially when you're teaching sports. Starting the class with a quick video clip is a great way to break the ice and get your students talking about sports.

Here are some awesome video resources that will get your students engaged and ready to learn about sports.

- **Sports Ultra:** Sports Ultra is home to a number of funny sports videos covering bloopers, mascots, outrageous fans and more. If you want to start your class off with a laugh, show them the "Funny Sports Fails and Bloopers" video.
- **Richard Films:** This channel mostly shows highlights of American football athletes, which is great if you're teaching a lesson on sports in the United States. Outside of football, the channel also hosts an incredible video called "The Greatest Sport Moments of All Time." which shows highlights of various sports that your students may be interested in.
- **Fluent U:** You can find all kinds of sports-related videos on Fluent, covering everything from snowboarding to rock climbing to bowling, and you can use it to find great material for lessons on other subjects as well!
- **FluentU** takes authentic videos—like music videos, movie trailers, news and inspiring talks—and turns them into personalized language lessons.
- **Bad Lip Reading:** Bad Lip Reading has an entire playlist of NFL videos of fake conversations between athletes on the football field. Their videos are hilarious and downright silly, and are perfect for using humor and sports as a warm-up exercise.

The great thing about sports videos as a warm-up exercise is that they're easy to make actionable. Simply come up with a list of questions to ask your students after the clip has ended. Here are some ideas for discussion topics:

- For clips of bloopers or highlights, pause after each action and ask the class to describe what happened.
- For compilation videos involving a number of different sports, ask the class to list off all the



types of sports they saw in the clip.

- For all videos, have students summarize the clip they just watched.

When teaching sports to beginners, flashcards are a great way to help your students memorize vocabulary words. Instead of memorizing a bunch of vocabulary words and definitions from a book, flashcards let your students actually visualize the words and expressions they're learning. And for many students, this makes it easier for them to learn new words.

If you're looking for a deck of flashcards to help you teach your next ESL sports lesson, have a look at these sites:

- Here are three separate decks of sports-related flashcards that cover a number of different activities, including hunting, automobile racing and martial arts.
- ESL Flashcards has a free 26-card deck of various solo and team sports, including summer and winter Olympic sports. Flashcards are able to be downloaded at the bottom of the page and come in small, medium and large picture decks.
- While designed specifically for young learners, the flashcard decks on Learn English Kids are actually suitable for beginners of all ages and cover a wide range of sports topics, including extreme sports and sporting equipment.

What's nice about flashcards is that they're incredibly easy to make actionable. Along with using them to introduce new vocabulary, try covering the word with a piece of paper and drilling students with just the picture. Alternatively, you could also hand each student a different flashcard and have them give a short oral presentation describing the sport to the class

If you want to help your students get the most out of their reading lessons, give them comprehension questions to answer as they read through various sports articles. You can also turn this activity into writing or discussion exercises by having your students give their thoughts about articles they've read.

For example, in this article covering a soccer player who attacked a fan, you can ask your students to talk or write about why the player shouldn't have done that, and how he could've diffused the situation better.

Best suited for upper-intermediate and advanced students, podcasts are a great way to have your students practice their listening skills. Including podcasts in your ESL sports lesson can be incredibly beneficial. Not only do they let your students learn how to talk about sports in a conversational manner, they can be downloaded and listened to from any computer or mobile device with internet access. That means that you're able to teach *and* assign homework assignments using podcasts.

If you're looking for a few sports podcasts to add to your next lesson, here are three recommendations:

In this fun sports lesson plan, students will learn about different sports in English, play two fun games, and will complete a worksheet to review what they have learned. This sports lesson plan is ideal for kids and beginner English language learners and includes all the necessary materials.

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