



## **WHAT ARE TEACHING METHODS?**

*Student of Andijan State Institute of Foreign Languages*

*Student: Zaynobidinova Mohlaroyim Sirajiddinova*

*Phone: +998907643539*

*E-mail: [zaynobidinovamohlaroyim07@gmail.com](mailto:zaynobidinovamohlaroyim07@gmail.com)*

*Research supervisor: Yaqubjonova Ro'zixon Mirkomil qizi*

*Phone: +998914822291*

*E-mail: [yaqubjonovaruzixon@gmail.com](mailto:yaqubjonovaruzixon@gmail.com)*

**Abstract:** *Using a number of different teaching methods helps to maximize the learning experience for everyone. In this article we will delve into what teaching methods are and why they are so important for teachers of any level of experience, as well as providing a range of potential teaching methods for you to experiment with in your classroom.*

**Keywords:** *inclusive, approach, assessment, combination, educational, strategies, experiment.*

### **What are Teaching Methods?**

The term teaching method refers to the techniques, principles, and strategies that educators use to enable and expedite the learning process for their students in the most engaging and memorable way. They help to ensure that learning material is developed clearly and concisely, is interesting to students, and can be retained well in the future. Your choice of teaching methods as a teacher will usually depend on what best suits you and your students needs, for example:

- Your personal and preferences and background as a teacher.
- What environment you're teaching in.
- Your school and mission statement.
- The requirements of your individual students.



- The overall learning outcome

Used correctly, teaching methods can help to facilitate the social and emotional development of children as well as their academic ability. They help to prepare students for real-life situations beyond the classroom, and can instill core values that carry through to all aspects of a child's future life and career. Furthermore, teaching methods help to ensure your classroom remains inclusive, providing all students with the opportunity to meet classroom expectations.

### **Types of Teaching Methods**

There are many specific examples of teaching methods available, but these can generally always be replaced into one of two categories: teacher-centered and student-centered approaches. A good educator will use a combination of both of these.

#### **Teacher-centered**

Teacher-centered methods are more traditional and focus on positioning the teacher as the main authority figure and expert whose job is to pass on their knowledge to their novice students in a passive way. In a teacher-centered classroom, the focus is primarily on the educator, who always chooses the topics of learning and is solely responsible for answering student questions and evaluating their performance. Often, students work independently in a teacher-focused classroom and the emphasis is on them listening whilst the educator talks. Frequent methods used in a teacher-led approach may include:

- Lectures.
- Modelling, in which a teacher demonstrates what a student's work should look like.
- Direct instruction, in which a teacher explicitly explains a concept.
- Questioning, to monitor student's understanding and correct misconceptions.
- Assessments and quizzes.







- Drilling, in which a teacher will use call and response or repeated practice to support memorization of material.

### **Student-centered**

Conversely to teacher-led approaches, student-centered teaching emphasizes the student's role in the learning process. Whilst the teacher is still the authority figure, they act as more of a facilitator whilst children are encouraged to take a collaborative position in their own learning. This involves the students being given more agency over what they learn, how they learn it, and where this learning occurs. Often, there will be more discussion between a teacher and their students, children may work in pairs or groups more frequently, have the opportunity to review their own or their peer's work, and can attempt to answer each other's queries. Ultimately, children are left to discover learning material themselves or between each other with a teacher only stepping in to correct or feedback when questions arise. Frequent methods used in a student-centered approach may include:

- Enquiry-based learning, where students are provided with the tools needed to discover information for themselves.
- Questioning focused on critical thinking, in which students are asked to analyze or evaluate, rather than merely recall, information.
- Role play.
- Outdoor-based learning.
- Pair and group work.
- Project-based learning.

The methods you choose to use play a large part in how effective your teaching is. Using a combination of these two categories of teaching methods is the most guaranteed way to cover all bases in your classroom, and therefore lead to the best student outcome.



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