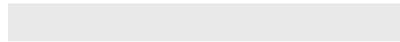


Qualities of an effective and good teacher of English

An English teacher holds a pivotal portfolio in any institution and has the most indelible impact on the students he/she interacts with. As an English teacher besides bearing a dignified demeanour you must also be extremely proficient in all the requisite skills that the language demands. Remember your persona, way of interacting with others and the correct use of language (pronunciation of words, fluency, articulation and grammar) says it all. Exhibiting grace, humility, perfect mannerism and enjoying English as your favourite language will make you an instant companion of the kids you come in contact with. A good, well-trained teacher can make a huge difference in your education and future. Highly-effective English teachers should be fresh always, introduce new ideas and changes, experiment with new things and be unique. Good teachers should have certain qualities like patience, tenacity, and adaptability. These are some of the essential qualities that can help learners in improving academically. Great teachers leave an unforgettable impression on their students' lives. They manage to find what is unique about each student and inspire them to achieve great things. So, what are some of the qualities that great teachers have?

Some of the essential qualities of a good teacher of English are as follows: -



1. A Love for Teaching and Language

Some of us know teaching as a calling. We know that we want to teach. It comes from a need to help our community and to make a difference and to make lives better. You must really want to teach and to share knowledge to be effective as a teacher, irrespective of what you are teaching. English teachers must also love language and its intricacies, but that alone will not be enough. Teaching a language requires more than telling students what the rules of the language are. You must be able to identify strengths of a learner as well as their weaknesses, know the most appropriate methods of skill transfer, and possess immense patience in order to make the jump from a language specialist to a teacher.

2. Communication is Key

In language learning, communication is extremely important because that is the aim of a language class – to enable learners to communicate in a new language. Again, a teacher is required to be a good communicator. A teacher must be a good listener to understand the learners and their needs. In addition to that, a teacher must also be able to communicate clearly so that learners, who often come from diverse backgrounds, understand the teacher. Communication is also the best way to get feedback from learners and assess if they have learned the concepts satisfactorily.

3. An Organizer and Planner

As a language teacher, you have to set objectives and plan your lessons. Many of these lessons may require activities. The learning activities need to be planned ahead – goals, steps, resources, and evaluation. Apart from this, crucial to a teacher’s success is classroom management. It involves lesson planning as well as managing different learners with different learning styles and behaviours in the classroom. Most of the organizing and planning strategies can be learned in teacher training. Practical experience will, over time, assist the teacher with what works and what does not work.

4. A Learner for Life

Language does not remain static – neither are the modes of language use and learning. They are constantly evolving. Hence, teachers must evolve. It can be achieved through refresher courses as well as paying attention to the news in the English language teaching field as well as other related fields. Technology is also important. Teachers need to understand how to exploit technology to teach language as well as how technology could change the way in which language is used. Language is not restricted to verbal communication anymore. It has been adapted to suit technology – abbreviated forms in texting, for example. Traditionally, language teachers used pen-to-paper writing practice in class yet now teachers should teach students how to write emails which would follow a different format and style. Besides, teaching and learning feed each other.

5. Knowledge

It is important to have a call for teaching, enjoy language and possess good interpersonal skills. Yet for all of these to be used effectively and to have the intended impact, what is necessary is a solid foundation and that comes with knowledge. Not only do you need to have knowledge pertaining to the language but you should also need to have teaching knowledge – methodologies, evaluation, classroom management, and learning styles. Together, language and teaching- skill will make you more effective as an English teacher.

6. Innovative Thinker

An English teacher must be able to quickly think on their feet and to respond with new ways to present concepts. This is helpful on many levels. Being able to think in an innovative manner could help you simplify complex concepts like grammar rules that normally put learners to sleep. Different learners may respond differently to a lesson and you’ve got to be able to explain the same thing differently to each learner using diverse examples and activities. Some students may learn through tasks while others learn with images, and still other learners may acquire through storytelling or dictation. An English teacher must think out of the box to keep learners engaged and to achieve objectives.

7. Empathy Opens Doors

Teaching is humanistic. Hence, empathy is a prerequisite quality for English teachers. A teacher must have an interest in people – who they are and what they are about – in order to meet their language learning needs through teaching. Not all people have an easy life. A learner may be performing badly due to stress that interferes with their ability to pay attention. Another learner may be shy or bullied and hence doesn't participate in classroom discussions. Teachers have to pay attention to these cues, empathize, and be patient with such learners. Empathy builds trust and that can dissolve barriers to learning.

8. An Interest in Culture

Since many people who commence language learning lessons could be from differing cultures, an English teacher must be curious and interested in other cultures. It can inform teaching in many ways. Learners may use grammar rules influenced from their first language while their intelligibility may be reduced due to the learner's language. An Asian learner may use '*they*' as a form of respect even when referring to an individual. When an English teacher comprehends culture, they will know how it is influencing a learner's ability to learn English. English teachers can also use the customs and traditions of various cultures in teaching so that learners don't feel completely alienated and learn English through familiar contexts.

9. Know How to Motivate

A teacher is a leader due to the fact that they must encourage learners to meet a common goal. And as with any good leader, a good teacher must know how to motivate learners to continue life-long learning. Just showing up for class and completing assignments is not an indicator of learning. A teacher must generate enthusiasm to learn by understanding the needs of the learners. Are learners interested in learning English to increase employment opportunities, to move to an English-speaking country, or to communicate their thoughts better? Understanding these needs is necessary as an English teacher can encourage a student to meet their personal needs and sustain their interest in learning.

10. Be Reflective

A good English teacher must be reflective by nature because this will make them aware of themselves as people and as teachers. They will know their strengths and weaknesses, and this understanding could help them improve as people and as professional teachers. Reflective time lets you focus on methods that have been used in the classroom and what needs to be developed. It is also a good idea to take feedback from colleagues and students to grow as a teacher.

11. An engaging personality and teaching style

Great teachers manage to conduct lessons that are very engaging so that students feel free to participate in all discussions and pay attention.

12. Clear objectives for lessons

Great teachers know exactly what they want to achieve during each lesson and they communicate this clearly to their students. They use the class time effectively in order to meet those objectives.

13. Effective discipline skills

Having effective discipline skills is a must for every great teacher so that he or she can promote positive behaviour and stop negative behaviour in the classroom.

14. Good classroom management skills

A great teacher, in a sense, is a great manager. He or she should know how to help students be more productive, how to encourage respect in the classroom, and how to ensure overall good behaviour in class.

15. High expectations

Great teachers have high expectations of their students and always encourage them to work their best and hardest.

16. Knowledge of curriculum and standards

It should go without saying that great teachers should be very well informed about their school's curriculum. They should know the standards their schools are trying to set and always make sure that their students reach those standards.

17. Knowledge of subject matter

Great teachers should be extremely knowledgeable about the subject matter they are teaching. They should be prepared to provide satisfactory answers to their students' questions.

18. Passion for children and teaching

A great teacher is passionate about teaching and working with children. They understand the responsibility in front of them and are excited to impact their students' lives in positive and meaningful ways.

19. Strong rapport with students

Great teachers manage to develop strong rapport with their students and establish trusting relationships.

So these are the qualities that I think are useful to me as an English teacher. I am constantly working on these qualities while also keeping in mind that teachers are always on a journey and never a finished product. The learning never ends.