



Getting the most out of your materials

LTP TESOL Certificate
TESOL 12

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Why adapt materials?

The presentation is poor
Not enough practice of the target item
The text is too dense with unknown vocabulary
Listening is inappropriate (level, age, topic, cognitive load, speed)
Too much or too little variety
Dialogs are too formal or contrived
Illustrations are inappropriate
Too much / too little materials for the lesson length
Comprehension questions too easy / difficult
The answers to comprehension questions can be guessed or easily lifted from the text

Ways to adapt materials

Method – exercise is too mechanical, lacks meaning. Too complicated
Content – too much emphasis on rare and difficult targets, or easy and already known targets
Subject matter – may or may not be interesting
Skill balance – the Balanced Curriculum
Progression and grading – order of targets or presentation steps may need changing
Cultural content – may be stereotypical, biased, over-simplistic, to value laden etc.

Objectives for adaptation

Personalize / Individualize – about things relevant to them
Allow for autonomy
Localize – to the specific locale / language of the students
Modernize - by method, approach, content
Real flexible choices - not false, unimaginative, rigid choices
Include all learning types / styles
Make the adapted materials more accessible, engaging
Encourage higher-level cognitive skills
Learner centered and learner choice
Open-ended rather than closed tasks
Make the context as authentic as possible
Enrich the input and context with universal appeal

Techniques for adapting

Adding new materials
 extending – make it longer
 expanding – add something new
Deleting, subtracting (quantity) and abridging (quality) materials
Simplifying
Reordering
Replacing