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## **MOTIVATING STUDENTS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSROOM**

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Motivation is one of the central issues in the learning process. General educational psychologists believe there are three main sources of motivation for students, and these directly apply to students of the English language. First, a student's personal, natural interest in a subject, called "intrinsic satisfaction," influences their natural affinity for learning more about the materials covered in a class. Second, the teacher's perceived expertise, the prestige of the school, and/or the future impact on employment prospects, called "extrinsic reward," defines for the student how much he/she is likely to benefit from learning English. Finally, when students are successful in a given task – whether this be a simple activity, a test or the overall course – they combine satisfaction with reward and are likely to be more motivated to continue the learning process.

A teacher can do little to impact a student's motivation based on intrinsic satisfaction. For many, language learning isn't interesting. Many students have such poor language background that they feel they are unable to learn English at an upper level and the curriculum seems too complicated for them. Others believe that they will not need English for their future jobs. Also there are students with an arrogant temper and scornful attitude who appear to be the biggest challenge as they encroach on healthy classroom environment.

It is an easier task for teachers to cultivate an environment where a student's belief in extrinsic rewards is strong. The first thing they have to work on is creating a friendly and supportive classroom atmosphere. Teachers should communicate their enthusiasm to their students. It is important to remember all their names and show

interest in them as individuals. In order to successfully motivate every student, teachers must make sure their students feel they are respected as individuals. The teacher can offer individual coaching and/or extra credit exercises that allow students to apply English language learning to other activities from which they gain intrinsic satisfaction. A student may have difficulty with the difference between verb tenses, but if the teacher can create an exercise in which the student can speak or write about a subject that they are really passionate about, their motivation level will naturally increase. Being able to describe their favorite activity in the new language would allow them to share with the teacher or the class something that makes them happy, while at the same time improving their knowledge of the English language

Students' motivation can be encouraged by offering them more challenging tasks or placing them in a higher-level group. Teacher can provide lots of group activities making his students feel that each of them makes a contribution. Another strategy is to make the tasks cooperative rather than competitive. It helps a lot to develop group interaction and good dynamics.

The way of giving feedback is another powerful tool of raising motivation. One of the examples is to thank students for their work and use "hamburger method": positive feedback – what needs to be improved – positive feedback.

It should also be noted that our students today belong to the generation which will have to compete fiercely in the global labour market. Given the fact that there are massive staff reductions, employees will be required to perform with excellence, take initiative, risk and responsibility, adapt to change, make decisions, and work in teams, which cannot be achieved without a great amount of self-motivation. As self-motivation is usually related to intrinsic motivation, no matter how motivating a teacher might be, once students stop attending classes, their hunger for more knowledge is likely to disappear unless the teacher and the overall education system have equipped them with lifelong learning strategies and helped them develop their long-term motivation. Students should be made responsible for their own learning, both now and in the future, as work in the 21st century will mostly rely on self-

motivated people, in other words, those with high self-efficacy and those who are full of intrinsic motivation.

To conclude, every teacher should find out what motivates their students most and should adjust the teaching strategies and techniques accordingly. Students must be constantly reminded that only the self-motivated students, with high self-efficacy and deep intrinsic motivation will survive in the labour market.