

Ten Teaching Tips to Help English Language Learners

- 1) Teach vocabulary through a game of *Charades*.
- 2) Encourage conversations with the board game *Jenga*. Write different questions on each wooden piece. When someone pulls a wooden block for their turn, they must answer the question that is on their piece before they can place the piece on the top of the stack and complete their turn.
- 3) Use Kahoot! to check for student understanding. Kahoot! also enables educators to embed visuals in their questions to help English language learners.
- 4) Allow students to write answers in their first language, and then to rewrite their answers in English. Students may not be able to process their thoughts as quickly in English and may benefit from having the chance to think in their first language before having to respond in English.
- 5) Include as many visuals as possible in lessons.
- 6) Provide students with verbal and written instructions at the same time.
- 7) Turn on subtitles/captions in videos that are shown to the class.
- 8) Regularly check for student understanding by using gestures.
 - a. This may include using the “Thumbs Up-Thumbs Down” strategy where students show the “thumbs up” sign to indicate that they are understanding something or the “thumbs down” to indicate they need help.
 - b. Teachers may also give students a green card and a red card. They can place the green card on their desk if they are understanding everything and the red card if they need help. This will help encourage shyer students since it will not be as intimidating as raising their hand and asking a question in front of the class.
- 9) Pair students that have stronger language skills with students who need help with their language development.
- 10) Use word walls that contain important vocabulary terms. Keep the word wall displayed for students so they can refer to it at any time.