

## PRINCIPLES OF LEARNING ENGLISH

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All language learning involves the processes of listening, speaking, reading and writing. These processes involve both linguistic and psychological aspects. This leads us to understand that all language learning is based on certain well-defined principles derived from linguistic science as well as psychological science.

**These principles are general principles.**

- Give priority to sounds
  - Present language in Basic Sentence Pattern
  - Language Patterns in Habits
  - Imitation
  - Practice & Drill
  - Oral Approach
  - Selection & Gradation
  - Motivation or Interest
  - Natural way of teaching & learning
  - Language should be learnt contextually
  - Adoption of the Multiple Line of Approach
  - Spiral Approach
  - No Interference with the Mother Tongue
  - Psychological Principles
- **GIVE PRIORITY TO SOUNDS**
- Language is the medium for listening & speaking skills
  - While speaking the teacher should take into consideration the different aspects of pitch & rhythm in accordance to the rules of phonetics.
- **PRESENT LANGUAGE IN BASIC SENTENCE PATTERN**
- To present the language the teacher should know the structure or the pattern of the sentence.

- To do this the teacher should help the students memorize the basic pattern through reading & comprehending sentences.
- **LANGUAGE PATTERN OF HABITS**
  - Making language pattern as a habit through intense practice.
  - The students must be taught the correct use of language, construction of sentences & normal speed of communication.
- **IMITATION**
  - Through imitation any learner picks up a language.
  - It is a good way of learning.
  - Imitation results in picking up a language correctly & then practicing this one can gain mastery over the language.
- **PRACTICE & DRILL**
  - Continuous practice & drill are essential for learning.
  - The four skills of learning language i.e., listening, speaking, reading & writing should be given to him with a lot of practice.
- **ORAL APPROACH**
  - Oral practice is a prime factor in language learning.
  - Oral work enables the child to learn the language twenty times better than by doing written exercise.
  - Oral work makes the child active.
- **SELECTION & GRADATION**
  - Selection & grading of the language material is of utmost importance in any language course.
  - It is essential to limit the language material.
  - The selection of the gradation of the language should depend upon the frequency, range, coverage & classroom & environmental needs.
- **MOTIVATION OR INTERESTS**
  - To keep the learners active the teacher should use proper language.
  - To develop & captivate the interests of the children, the teacher should use methods which need active participation from the students.

○ **NATURAL WAY OF LEARNING & TEACHING**

- Listening & speaking are the more important skill rather than reading & writing.
- Once the child develops reading & writing, he will automatically start learning & developing the other two language skills: reading & writing.

○ **LANGUAGE SHOULD BE LEARNT CONTEXTUALLY**

- The basic aim of teaching a language is that the learner should be able to use the language in his day-to-day life.
- The teacher should teach the language using device such as word-building games, word-families & word-pattern for expanding the vocabulary of the pupils.

○ **ADOPTION OF THE MULTIPLE LINE OF APPROACH**

- The multiple line approach is more useful in teaching language.
- For example, there is a lesson on 'Holidays' in the text book. The teacher can have a number of language activities connected with the topic such as oral drill, reading, sentence writing, composition, grammar, translation, language exercises etc.

• **SPIRAL APPROACH**

- The “spiral” approach to language learning should be followed.
- Previously taught vocabulary and structures should be reintroduced in subsequent units whenever logical or possible.

• **NO INTERFERENCE OF THE MOTHER TONGUE**

- The teacher should not make use of mother tongue while teaching English.
- It is important that students do not use their mother-tongue in the classroom.

○ **PSYCHOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES**

- The other psychological principles that have to be adopted while teaching English are :
  1. Strengthening of correct response
  2. Reinforcement of correct responses
  3. Immediate corrections