



## TEACHING WRITING TECHNIQUES IN THE ELT CLASSROOMS

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### Abstract

Writing occupies a unique position in language learning because it requires practice and mastery of the other three language skills, such as listening, reading, and speaking, to master it. It is important for ELT teachers to choose the appropriate techniques and approaches in teaching writing skills. This article provides several techniques which could be helpful in teaching writing in the classroom conditions.

**Keywords:** writing skills, learning process, communicative competence, writing techniques.

### Introduction

In Uzbekistan, most people rarely need to speak English every day, so English is designated as a foreign language (EFL), and there is no immediate opportunity to use English for actual communicative functions during the learning process. In addition, teachers in Uzbekistan continue to use outdated teaching and memorizing methods. These environments usually do not include meaningful interactions with native English speakers or real materials related to the target culture. Therefore, English language teachers have to pay special attention to create English learning atmosphere including all four language skills.

Building up the writing skills considered as most difficult while learning target language. In Teaching English writing skill teachers should develop linguistic and communicative competence of learners which is not an easy task. When teaching writing, therefore, EFL teachers in general encounter many challenges (i.e. difficulties).

A number of scientists and linguists have already mentioned that writing is a process of interaction with others in which a writer sends his ideas and thoughts in written forms to readers. As Wingersky stated, it is a process of thinking which the writer discovers, organizes, and communicates his or her thoughts to the reader [7,4].





Furthermore, it is about conveying meaning by using words that have been chosen and put together in written or printed form [2, 32]. Based on these statements it can be said that writing is delivering information and expressing ideas in the written form. It is obviously as a tool of communication in written form. As Richard mentioned, learning to write either in the first or second language is one of difficult tasks a learner encounter [5,100]. Not only for those learning English as either foreign or second language it is difficult for the native speakers as well [1, 54]. In fact, a good writing has to consider some aspects of writing; grammar, vocabulary, mechanic, content, and organization [3, 89].

It is true that most of student's shy from writing in English as they think it is either difficult or boring. At the same time, it can be alluring for the teacher to tackle the skill by setting simple compositions with little structure or purpose [6]. However, writing is not only a necessary language skill, especially for students hoping to use English in their work or studies, but also a great way to improve their level overall, and it need not be boring. Vincent suggested several techniques for teaching writing in the EFL classroom as followings[6]:

**Knowing the aim of text and the target reader-** The teachers should always inform their students what they are trying to do with the text – entertain? inform? persuade? complain? make a request? apply for a job? argue an opinion? – and who they are writing to – a friend? their boss? you, the teacher? the readership of a specialist magazine? Teachers encourage them to think about the kind of style, register and organisation they would use in their own language. The exact conventions might not be the same as those in English, but it will help to raise awareness of the importance of differentiating their language.

**Use model texts as examples-** giving students some examples to work with. If they are going to be writing a short story, then read a few short stories first or a piece of formal or informal letters. Students can then work together in pairs to rewrite your examples more appropriately before starting on their own;

**Brainstorm and plan-** it is always essential to brainstorm students and plan before starting to write. The brainstorming can simply be a list of words or phrases they want to include in the text. It might also include grammatical structures they think will be useful;



**Do pair work, do peer work-** While trying to write, the brainstorming and planning can be done in pairs. This not only improve the students' resources but helps to be more confident.

**Have students write a draft (or two) and a final version-** There's absolutely no point in correcting a piece of writing if students don't then incorporate your corrections and suggestions (and their partner's suggestions) into a final version. it is necessary for teachers make students write a draft and a final version.

**Keep a blog or a wiki-** it is modern to use technologies and social media in the teaching writing. A great way to get language learners writing for real is to have them keep a blog or a wiki (with young learners, always make sure you get consent from the school and from parents).

**Read, read, read-** Finally, the best writers always read a lot, so foreign language teachers should always support their students to read as much as they can.

Based on the scholars' findings and researches, it is possible to conclude that such writing techniques will help students to gain experience and enlarge their awareness of writing skill in their study the subjects. These techniques also might be helpful for future ELT teachers while implementing during teaching Foreign language.

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