TEACHER’S CORNER: ADAPTING MATERIALS FOR STUDENTS’ LEVELS

Finding and choosing materials to use in classes can be a challenge. Teachers must take into account a number of things, including authenticity, the original source, the target language skill, and learners’ language levels and ages. After choosing materials, teachers must then decide if the material needs to be further adapted to fit the needs of their learners.

Last month’s Teacher’s Corner focused on finding authentic materials. This month’s Teacher’s Corner focuses on adapting authentic materials to fit students’ levels and offers several factors to consider when making those adaptations. Week 1 offers an overview of those factors and how each factor can enhance or potentially diminish materials. Week 2 will model how to adapt songs to fit the needs of beginning learners. During Week 3, the activity presented will offer suggestions on how to adjust the vocabulary in a reading to meet the needs of more advanced learners. Finally, Week 4 addresses modifications needed for multi-level classrooms.

Additional Resources

For additional information about adapting authentic materials, check out a few of the many resources available on the American English website:

Adapting Materials to Meet Your Classroom Needs

Adapting Authentic Materials for Language Teaching

Adapting Textbook Activities for Communicative Teaching and Cooperative Learning