

Unlocking Every Student's Potential

The Power of
Differentiated Instruction

Goals

- How can we address the diversity in learners' culture and educational background?
- What should be done in terms of contents, process, learning assessment, and classroom setting in a mixed-ability class?
- How does the flipped classroom approach benefit the learning process?

Differentiated Instructions

- **Differentiated instruction** is a teaching approach where teachers proactively modify and adapt instruction to meet the diverse needs

The Four Trajectories of this Approach

- **Content:** Providing reading materials at varied levels of difficulty on the same topic.
- **Process:** Offering choices between hands-on activities, video-based learning, or traditional lectures.
- **Product:** Allowing students to choose how to show what they've learned—e.g., write an essay, create a poster, or deliver a presentation.
- **Environment:** Arranging seating for collaboration or quiet individual work based on student preference

Strategies to follow

- **Use Tiered Content.**
- **Leverage Technology and Adaptive Tools.**
- **Scaffolding Strategies with Visual and Linguistic Support.**
- **Integrate Multimodal Resources.**

Tiered Content

- Tiered content means giving **the same concept** or **objective** to all students but varying the **complexity** of materials based on their English levels.

Leverage Technology and Adaptive Tools

- Newsela, Rewordify, and Quizlet adapt text complexity with audio.
- www.newsinlevels.com
- www.Englishnewsinlevels.com
- www.breakingnewsenglish.com

Textual & Adapted Reading Materials

Useful for differentiating reading levels.

- **Newsela / CommonLit** – Same article in multiple Lexile levels
- **ReadWorks** – Offers leveled texts with questions and audio
- **StoryWeaver / Tar Heel Reader** – Free leveled digital books for beginners

Scaffolding Strategies with Visual and Linguistic Support

Scaffolding content using glossaries, sentence starters, visuals, and graphic organizers to support comprehension.

- ✓ **Example:**
- Use a **KWL chart** (Know–Want to know–Learned) for reading.
- Provide **sentence starters** like “I think this is important because...”
- Offer **visual dictionaries** or **anchor charts** with key terms.

Integrate Multimodal Resources

Visual Resources

- **Best for visual learners and vocabulary building.**
- **Infographics** – Use Canva or Piktochart to create topic-based visuals.
- **Image dictionaries** – e.g., [The Noun Project](#) or [ESL Flashcards](#)
- **Mind maps** – Tools like MindMeister or Popplet help organize grammar or ideas visually.

Audio Resources

Great for auditory learners and pronunciation practice.

- **Podcasts** – ESL-focused: *ESLPod*, *The English We Speak* (BBC), *Voice of America – Learning English*
- **Audio books** – Simplified readers from Oxford Bookworms or Penguin Readers
- **Listening platforms** – Ello.org offers leveled listening activities with quizzes

Video Resources

- Supports listening, speaking, and cultural awareness.

- **YouTube Channels:**
 - *English Addict with Mr. Steve* (live English sessions)
 - <https://en.islcollective.com/english-esl-video-lessons/search>
 - *BBC Learning English*. www.eslvideo.com
 - *FluentU* – turns real-world videos into personalized lessons
- **Short films or scenes** – e.g., Pixar shorts for inference and discussion
- **LyricsTraining.com** – Learn English through song lyrics with fill-in-the-blank challenges

Interactive & Gamified Tools

For kinesthetic learners needing active engagement.

- **Kahoot / Quizizz / Blooket** – Use for grammar/vocab review
- **Nearpod / Edpuzzle** – Add interactivity (quizzes, polls, open-ended questions) to slides or videos
- **Wordwall** – Customizable games like “match up” and “whack-a-mole” for grammar/vocab

Mobile & AR Tools

Great for students on the go.

- **Google Translate with Camera** – Useful for multilingual classrooms
- **MondlyAR** – Teaches language using Augmented Reality
- **Duolingo / Memrise** – For extra practice at home

Differentiation by Process

- **Flexible Grouping**
- **Differentiated Discussion Formats.**
- **Use of Technology to Adjust Pacing**

Flexible Grouping

- For vocabulary review: use **heterogeneous groups** so stronger students can scaffold peers.
- For reading fluency practice: use **homogeneous groups** with level-appropriate texts.

Differentiated Discussion Formats

Teacher should vary how students participate in speaking tasks based on comfort level, fluency, and goals.

- **Think-Pair-Share (TPS).**
- Use **role-plays** or **debates** for advanced learners.
- *Task-Based Language Teaching*

Use of Technology to Adjust Pacing

- **Duolingo**
 - Game-based learning with vocabulary, grammar, and practice.
- **Babbel**
 - Focuses more on conversation skills and real-life phrases.
- **Rosetta Stone**
 - Immersive with picture-word association and speech recognition.
 - Strong pronunciation practice and no translation.

- **Memrise**

- Best for vocabulary building and listening practice.

- **Hello English**

- Offers speaking, reading, writing, and listening activities.

- **BBC Learning English**

- Includes news-based lessons, grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation tips.

- **VOA Learning English**

- Audio and video news stories with simplified English and subtitles.

For Conversation Practice / Speaking

- **Cake**
 - Focuses on real English conversations using video clips and quizzes.
- **ELSASpeak**
 - Uses AI to analyze pronunciation and offer instant feedback.

Speechace.com

Mirrortalk.ai
- **Tandem**
 - Language exchange app to chat with native speakers via text, voice, or video.

- **HelloTalk**

- Like social media for language learners—chat with native speakers.
-

- **Speakly**

- Teaches relevant words and includes listening/speaking exercises.

- **LingQ**

- Content-based learning using podcasts, books, and news in your target language.

For Grammar and Vocabulary

- **Grammarly Keyboard**
 - Helps ESL learners write correctly in real-time.
- **Quizlet**
 - Create and use flashcards for vocabulary, idioms, and grammar rules.
- **Beelinguapp**
 - Side-by-side bilingual reading for vocabulary and grammar exposure.

Differentiation by Product

- **Offer Choice in Assessment Formats.**
- **Tiered Rubrics.**
- **Group vs. Individual Products**
- **Leverage Digital Tools for Presentation**

For Teachers and Classrooms

- **Kahoot!**
 - Interactive quizzes and vocabulary games—great for group learning.
- **Seesaw**
 - Digital portfolio and assignment app used in ESL classrooms.
- **Edmodo**
 - Learning management system with tools for assignments, quizzes, and discussions.

Multisensory & Project-Based Activities

Support deeper learning through creation.

- **Digital storytelling** – Use *Book Creator* or *StoryJumper*
- **Interactive notebooks** – Have students cut/paste, draw, and write as part of grammar lessons
- **ESL role-play simulations** – Set up real-life scenarios (e.g., ordering food, job interview)

Leverage Digital Tools for Presentation

- **Padlet** allows video and audio comments and has auto-transcription. www.padlet.com
- **ScreenPal** enables teacher to launch and edit video or images, create a storyboard, upload content, and create quizzes. <https://screenpal.com/content>
- **Mirror Talk:** students record reflections and receive feedback from a virtual avatar, https://mirrortalk.ai/groups/30922?period=ALL_TIME
- **Gravity:** It is designed for quick video responses, has auto-transcription, keyword extraction, and tone analysis. It allows you attach YouTube, and allows writing the transcript. <https://www.usegravity.io/g/hquc4r7i68/olbxaa29cw/>

Interactive Practice Tools

- **StoryJumper / Book Creator.** Students create digital books or journals using images, audio, and text. Great for project-based learning. <https://www.storyjumper.com/>
<https://bookcreator.com/>

- **7. Wordwall / LearningApps.** <https://wordwall.net/en-us/community/games>

Create interactive games like match-up, sorting, crossword, or missing words. It can be customizable for grammar drills, vocabulary sets, idioms, etc.

- Use collaborative tools like Jamboard or Padlet.
- **Listenwise.** <https://listenwise.com/>
- Provides leveled audio stories with comprehension quizzes. It includes transcripts and vocabulary support

Differentiation by Learning Environment

- **Flexible Classroom Layout and Seating.**
- **Inclusive Atmosphere.**
- **Culturally Responsive Environment.**
- **Supportive Peer Environment**
- **Technology-Rich Environment.**

Flipped classroom

- **Definition:** The **flipped classroom** is a teaching method that reverses (or “flips”) the traditional learning structure. Instead of introducing new content in class and assigning homework for practice, **students first engage with new material at home and use class time for active learning and support.**

Benefits of Flipped Classroom

- **More Personalized Instruction:** Class time is freed up for 1-on-1 or small group support.
- **Greater Student Engagement:** Learners actively apply concepts with teacher and peer support.
- **Pacing Control:** Students review material at their own speed.
- **Promotes Mastery Learning:** Encourages deeper understanding through hands-on practice.
- **Student-centered learning style.**

Question Formats

- **PEER** sequence pattern (**P**rompt, **E**valuate, **E**xpand, **R**epeat).
- **CROWD** question design structure (**C**ompletion “good for grammar”, **R**ecall “good for review”, **O**pen-ended “good for critical thinking”, **W**h-, and **D**istancing “connect the personal life of learner to the new materials”, good for fluency”).

Contacts

- Samir Sefain, Ph.D.
- My Community Services (MCS)
- E-mail: ssefain@liberty.edu
- Website: www.eslmethods.com

