

The Fractal Approach to Teaching English as a Foreign Language

Don't

- sanitise the language in order to teach it;
- search for examples in order to prove a rule. If a rule does not work, throw it out;
- accept over-simplified models;
- reject real-life material by characterising it as 'slang', 'regional', 'jargon', 'telegram-style', 'colloquial', etc.

Do

- focus on using real-world English in class;
- test grammar rules against experience before passing them on;
- emphasise the effect that context has on meaning;
- introduce new material from a wide range of sources, even if these conflict with one other;
- ensure that role plays are realistic rather than conform to a pre-set notion of what 'should' happen;
- encourage your students to explore new paths;
- provide your students with packages of ready-made real-life English, regardless of form;
- expand your own language skills by discovering new areas of English;
- concentrate on content rather than form.