

# CHAPTER 1

Teaching Strategies to Develop Productive Skills





## Productive Skills Overview

Productive skills are writing and speaking. These are arguably more difficult to master for language learners than receptive skills, so it is very important that teachers give their students plenty of opportunities to practice their productive skills in class.

This chapter provides detailed practical descriptions of simple and effective teaching strategies to develop speaking and writing skills. These creative, enjoyable and easy strategies aim to help English teachers of learners of all ages, from young children to teenagers in the EFL classroom maximize the learning experience.

The activities are contextualized to the Ecuadorian reality that many public-school teachers face, namely, large class sizes, lack of availability of technology and lack of space.

Some of the strategies for developing speaking skills for young children include “Happy Rhymes”, “Story Bag”, and “Read, Look up and Say”. Each one of them is aligned to the curricular thread of oral communication with a detailed list of actions and materials to achieve the speaking production goals.

Some of the strategies for developing productive skills for teenagers are “Personalized Storytelling”, “Find Someone Who”, “Writing Codes for Peer-correction”, “Speed-dating”, “Back to the Board” and the “Color

Vowel Chart for pronunciation”. These strategies appeal to teenagers as they involve movement, personalization and choice. The pronunciation activities also build students’ confidence when speaking, so they don’t need to be afraid of pronouncing words wrong.

These strategies have been designed to help teachers plan their lessons in a more engaging, creative, and dynamic way that aims to improve EFL students’ productive skills. They are simple, but effective activities that can be applied in Ecuadorian public schools even with limited resources.