

# Faculty of Arts, Design and Humanities

# Teaching Practice in English Language Teaching

## Module code TEFL5007-2018-1

## Assignment, Teaching Journal Reflection

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## **Introduction:**

My teaching practice session was the best and perhaps the most interesting experience in my educational journey. The experience was inspiring and informative. I enjoyed my time with the students and every opportunity was a learning experience for me. The support I received from the module tutor was incredible. The teachers were considerate, supportive and were standby to assist whenever it was necessary. When it came to my relationship with the students it was the best. The students had an immense impact on my teaching practice sessions. I was amazed at the extent to which the students taught me (I have learned from them as well) as MA student. From my short practices to the student-teacher relationships they always taught me something new. Teaching practice gave me opportunity to transfer teaching techinques from theory to practice.

## **Class profile:**

The students in the class were different backgrounds and from different contents. I taught them some teaching sessions for teaching practice module. The composition of the class was both males and females of different ages, it is believed to be aged between 20 to 34 years old. Ordinarily, some students start studying English (ESL) before venturing to other courses at De Montford University here in Britain. Ideally, the English lessons prepare them for other courses, which are predominantly taught and examined in English. The students had wonderful personalities to the extent that they were polite and enthusiastic to learn. However, majority of them had limited vocabulary. While some of students demonstrated incredible strengths throughout their learning process. Some were weak, both genders demonstrated strengths and weaknesses. poor integration between males and females at large, mostly they sit in separate areas. Especially students from Arab ethnicity. But some Aisan and European higly-likely fully integrated.

## Personalities and class dynamics:

The teaching practice sessions were the best in a long time. I liked the sessions because it helped in bringing out my strengths and weaknesses. First, I have to state that there are three crucial areas that stood out for me. These were my areas of strengths and this included time management, confidence and relationships. From the outset, I was not nervous about how the first few sessions were going to do. However, as the sessions progressed I managed to establish great and amazing relationships with the students and understand their cultures and backgrounds. After the establishment of the connection and relationships, it became relatively more easy for me to engage the students. The teaching and learning practice was effective after the connections. The students became more open to the learning process.

They asked questions and in some instances requested for further assistance whenever it was necessary. But some females always very shy to participate in discussion. Teaching English to students who have never spoken the language can be difficult and stressing. During teaching sessions, I did not felt learners get tired or stressing. It was my pleasure to offer them assistance after all. Previous teaching obersvations at De Montfort university (DMU) had provided me general knowledge about teaching environment.

#### Strengths and Weaknesses of students:

The demonstrations of strength were in the areas of activities some students will finsh very quickly. Asking question is one of the most crucial aspects of learning, learners will ask questions. Coming up with learning pairs or groups works are essential in meeting the goals and objectives of the learning process. So students did groups work to help each other. Throughout the sessions, one of the effective elements to support students strength is came to indviduals and pairs support. During group works I would draw attention to the students works by walking around them and

some students finshed activities schedules as appropriate. In most instances. Whreresas, others struggles to finsh on right time. I would realize that the meaning of new words rather weak to most of them. Speaking their mother tongue during English class another prohibited area as been informed.

Considering more weaknesses. The majority of learners would use phones for online dictionaries, probablery attract their attention from teachers instructions. As I taught two different classes. But the same strengths and weakness are sharing both classes. During lesson I used different techniques to explain new words. For example, word "events" some studnets couldn't understand, so I have used in phrase e.g sport event, social event, party event. Then some understood and I asked to explain to their colleagues. Whole class were satisfied. Teaching journal reflections focus on two lessons only and observation of profession teacher in different classes.

#### **Reflection on lessons:**

#### Lesson 1: Grammar lesson.

#### Tilte: (Used to, Would)

From the out set I have introduced myslft and the lesson tiltle (used to and would) and reading passge related to the grammar under the title of childhood derams, not high level. In this since students talk about childhoold dearms and use terms (used to and would). But I realized that as my first lesson students did not understand introduction, especilally reading passge why we learn and how to practice used to or would, that prime impression seem to be difficult. These features are related to my lack of experience to teach reading lessons, despite I belive I had some esperince before, causal experience in Britain and systematic in Sudan. But it was somehow a bit different Sudanese method from Great Britain`s methodology. However, grammar lesson I was rather better. I use to explain orally and by written on the board. Above all, my instructions was a bit doggy, but I recongnised early.

I asked students to pay attention to me before any excerise, whether group or individuals, then students started to participate postivily, trainer tutor informed me that's good point. Again, during feeback I understood some students still need more support, I did individuals and pairs supports. I had corrected pronunciation and grammatical mistakes come through students. When, I have finshed lesson, I got feedback from trainer tutor, there's some good and bad points, but my mean weakeness is in introduction and that the key entrance to the lesson. Clearity of stage aims and anticipation of problems rather vague. So the next teaching session I will try to avoid all these weaknesses. Some good points are classroom control, monitoring and giving feebacks are rather strong, these I will try to keep it up.

#### Lesson 2: Vocabulary.

**Tiltle:** Vocabluary (Life events, good news and bad news)

From the beginning I felt relax and better from the first lesson. I did good introduction. Students were more ease. Firstly, I touched confortable with the teaching area, because this kind of topics will be familair to the most of learners and they will interrelate and discuss in the class. I asked meaning of word "split up" it was new word, then I have given synonyms e.g separate, divorce, afterward understood majority of them, then I asked one student to tell whole class. I asked students to make discussion in pairs and groups. During feedback answers were correct from individuals and groups. Hence, I have moved to listening conversion part, I have used audio tape. Students were listened and compare pictures as I have distributed a couple of handouts. compare letters A to G with numbers 1 to 7. Matched correctly after listening audio tape. I have received individuals and groups feedback. It was enjoyable excerise with specific time frame. Next excercise is (put the words in the correct order to make sentences) this part was a bit gloomy and misleading, then, after few answers I moved to intonation patterns/ phonetics. There are areas of weaknesses that no doubt need improvement. During feedback trainer tutor informed me I should do according to lesson plan, that's means I missed some points in lesson plan. I wrote in lesson plan term expression, but I have not used during teaching, I believed marked me down. Moreover, monitoring need to go around groups another area need to be improved. I have learned those points and I will try to avoid my next teaching sessions these weaknesses. All in all, I did better than first teaching session and the third one I am going to do better off from two previous lessons, and I had high marks than first and second teaching session.

## Lesson 3: Vocabulary and grammar .....Tilte: ways of communicating

This teaching session was most successful for me. I have corrected my previous mistakes. Especially, instructions. My instruction was much clear. But in the introduction I miss one thing. A photo of a primitive man using phone. That's means I have started introduction a bit different from lesson plan. The lesson was taken place in different class and different level from two previous lessons I taught before. I was confidence, relax and enthusiasm to teach. Students were so eager to listen. I went through ways of communicating relate to communication tools such as a smartphone, a landline, a laptop, a tablet computer, an internet connection and a wi-fi connection. I have explained very professional way by using power point slides with photo of each items. Students understood very well and all of them impressed. I gave differnet handouts for each activity. They answered questions very well. Despite of my time managemet was good and planned, organised and implemented as I expected. But I felt grammar part and acitivities covered quickly, because I am worried about timing, its short. In the future I will give more time. At the end, students understood well and admired. They did all excerices well either individuals or groups. I have hear that well-done well-done and claps theirs hands. I have received very positive feeback from trainer tutor with few points focus on it in the future. For example, in grammar part I have started with formulation of present perfect continuous. Asked me to start with examples. Furthermore, one pronouncition correction indicated me too e.g smartphone /'smq:tfəun/ (prononuciation patterns). Looks I pronounced like this /ismartphone/. Above all, the aspect of making decisions also helped me to plan and engage with the learners, especially when it came to meeting the needs of every student. Decision-making was perhaps an area where personal responsibility was mostly demonstrated as stated tutor during feedback. The teaching practice went exceptionally well and had many positive experiences. Additiontinally, my weaknesess are very few and reducing gradually and I will eradicate in the future.

#### **Evaluation of another lesson: Lesson teaching observation:**

## Presented by Native English teacher (ELT professon tutor)

I have benefited a lot from teaching observations. I have attended three teaching observations. Tutor XXX Native English was teaching a class. The lesson was under title of sport. She used different techniques for explanation. For example, she draw mind map (spider diagram) for new words, then students widely participated giving meaning of words. I have mesmerised and respected her methodology, she asked students not to speak other langauge in class as all of them mixed from diiferent backgrounds. During the teaching sessions, she employed exceptional techniques to enhance the learning process. For instance, there was the integration of technology into the lessons. Using projector, power poins, audio machine and white board. These techniques allowed for a high level of understanding by the learners. Moreover, she had the tendency of motivating the students to work towards the achievement of personal and educational

goals. This strategy helped the students to focus more in class. I have learned from these positive aspects. I intend to incorporate these aspects in the future to ensure that the learning outcomes are improved. Specifically, I will consider the application of technology in teaching to enhance the learning process.

## Personal goals for development:

Being a teacher requires an individual to have a confidence level that makes it possible to teach effectively and properly. My plan is to develop this skill to make my teaching experience more effective. Students are more likely to listen and be attentive if the teacher has a positive as well as confident demeanor. Moving forward, I will endeavor to think positively about my personality, establish a positive relationship with the students and engaging the learners more. The idea is having a constant engagement with learners to ensure that stronger relationships are established. Having a positive engagement with the students helps in creating a better learning atmosphere. Through this initiative, it is possible to build further teaching techniques.

Classroom management is a crucial to the learning process, that's aspects attracting students attention I will try to progress and keep it up. In the future, I intend to come up with credible techniques that can ensure that the students are attentive and pay attention. Another goal is to develop the lesson plans according to the specific needs and demands of every student. As an English teacher I have learned that students learn the language for different intentions. While others learn the English language to further their studies in other fields, others are more interested in using the language for communication purposes. My desire is to come up with lesson plans that meet the needs and demands of every learner.

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