

SETTING GOALS AND MONITORING PERFORMANCE

by Jonathan Bygrave

Jonathan Bygrave has worked in the field of ELT since 1992 as a teacher, editor, publisher and author. During that time he has been involved in developing both print and online materials. Jonathan has travelled extensively to research the use of coursebooks in modern classrooms and has been an author on the Upbeat, New Sky, New Total English, Real Life and Cutting Edge 3rd Edition courses.

Tests and assessment are the main ways that students are judged throughout their academic career. Teachers can continually monitor the performance of every student which also makes it easier to set personal, achievable goals for them.

WHY MONITOR PERFORMANCE?

- 1 Studying and testing is more effective than just studying alone – trying to recall information helps us to learn.
- 2 Modern technology has extended performance monitoring and we can now see how well students are learning between tests.
- 3 The information captured through assessment is useful for lesson planning and setting goals for students.

WHAT GOALS TO SET

- 1 The more specific the information captured through the tests, the more specific the goals can be for students. For this we need tests not just on vocabulary and grammar but also skills.
- 2 The simplest kind of goals you can get from performance assessments involve improving your score or grade over a period of time.

- 3 Test scores are just one indicator of student progress and should be supplemented with detailed information on how students are doing in their homework and other assignments.

HOW TO SET THOSE GOALS

- 1 Goal should be specific, achievable and, in some way, measurable. Ideally the student is involved in setting at least some of them.
- 2 Specific targets, e.g. learn use a variety of forms to talk about the future, can cover a short time period of a week or two while other more general goals, such as improving test scores, can be spread across a term or more.
- 3 General goals supplemented by specific targets are often the most effective.

To maintain motivation it's important that the students receive feedback on their performance and encouragement to keep going, whether they achieve their goal or not.

For more teacher training videos and expert tips go to:
www.PearsonELT.com/upbeat

Come back regularly for our latest updates

MOTIVATING TEENAGE LEARNERS

Keeping learners engaged and focused is one of the biggest challenges for teachers working with teenagers. The intrinsically motivated teenage learner is generally considered to be a rare species. Are we helpless in our efforts to engage learners and therefore achieve better learning outcomes?

The experts and authors of Upbeat (and an upcoming course by the same authors) have agreed to share with us practical tips and ideas, and materials you can use in the classroom.

- Strengthen your skills with free teacher training videos.
- Pick up the latest tips from our methodology experts.
- Use free photocopiable lessons on current topics in your classroom now.



Teaching Effective Oral Communication by Ingrid Freebairn



Ingrid Freebairn's expert tips on Teaching Effective Oral Communication



Lesson plan: The Internet Never Forgets
Teaching notes: The Internet Never Forgets