



“With EnglishCentral, I know my students are speaking and listening to English outside of my classroom on a regular basis.”

Why I started using EnglishCentral

After moving to the Middle East, I realized that I just was not getting much spoken English from my students either in the classroom or out. EnglishCentral was the way to get all of my students to maximize their speaking practice.

For example, let's say that you have 20 students in your class and you have a 50-minute class, even if you get students to answer questions or do small group discussions, how much English are they actually speaking? Then, walk around the halls, the library, the canteen, and see how much English your students are speaking. Lastly, if your students have families that do not speak English, how much do they practice at home?

How EnglishCentral is used

I set weekly goals of 5 videos, 25 learned words and 2,000 speak points. If my students complete these goals, they receive a 70%, which is a C+. If they exceed these goals, their grade will go up accordingly and, if not, their grade will go down. This semester I added several new courses that are now available through EnglishCentral. This requirement varies each week, but the students are always required to complete the full course in order to get credit for it.

EnglishCentral has now become an important part of a special pilot program with students who have had to repeat the regular course. Most of EnglishCentral is done as homework, but sometimes I will have them do it in class so I can help and encourage those who are falling behind in their work. It is used not only for speaking, listening and vocabulary practice but also for help in developing their independent learning skills and even time management.

The results of using EnglishCentral

Last semester the students did extremely well. My classes were small, and so I was able to give them personal feedback about the job they were doing and lots of frequent encouragement. Some of my students voluntarily did 300% of what I required of them.

Using just the traditional textbook and ESL curriculum, I found that the students were getting very little actual time with speaking English. By using EnglishCentral, mostly as their homework assignments, my students are speaking English much more than ever before. Even they themselves are seeing a difference. They are excited about being at the top of the leaderboard each week. With the reports feature, I am able to encourage them on a weekly basis and even daily, if necessary.

My students are willing to give me two to three hours of homework each week in order to complete their EnglishCentral goals. That is huge for students who haven't done homework successfully in the past.

“EnglishCentral has become instrumental in my program, and I would not be willing to give it up.”

Making a difference with students

In the Arabic culture, family is very important. One student told me how her whole family sits down and watches the videos together.

One student came in all excited one morning and told me, “Miss, I watched an English movie WITHOUT subtitles!” She accredited that to EnglishCentral.

Another unmotivated student came in after the weekend and wanted me to open up EnglishCentral immediately. She said, ‘Look, Miss, I’m at the top of the list!’ She stayed at the top of the list for several weeks.

Another student with fairly poor pronunciation called me on the phone toward the end of last semester, and I was able to understand her clearly. She was so excited.

I have found that students who are very quiet in class truly enjoy practicing their speaking with EnglishCentral. After a while they become more confident to speak in class!

Course Information

- Teaches a non-traditional Foundations course leading to and preparing students for the full Bachelor's program. Many students did not pass the traditional course.
- 20-25 students per class
- 18-23 year-old women

Course Objectives

- Motivate students to become lifelong learners while preparing them to attain a 5.0 or above on the IELTS exam

EnglishCentral Facts

- Member since March 2010
- 107 students in 7 classes
- 3.5 hours per week
- 965.4 student hours of speaking

Want to use EnglishCentral at your school or organization?

We offer academic discounts. Simply contact us and we'll get you started!