



STRATEGIES FOR STAYING IN THE **TARGET** LANGUAGE

Reaching and exceeding the 90% target

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The 90% Target

Notes:

How can I convey the importance of this target with:

Students

Parents

Administrators

Colleagues

Teacher Strategies

What strategies could I use to collect and analyze data about target language use?

During the last unit that I taught, when did I use English?

What strategies could help me minimize the use of English and focus instead on target language use?



Idea Bank:

- Collect and analyze data on language use.
- Consider videotaping, taking notes, using charts or graphs, and sharing data collection/analysis with students, colleagues, administrators, or others.
- Focus on comprehensible input by using pictures, acting, storytelling, videos, music, props, and high-interest themes.
- Plan with the target language in mind. Go through a mental rehearsal ahead of time to plan how you will stay in the T.L.
- Increase comprehension checks through frequent questions, exit slips, physical responses, polling, white boards, and other tools.
- Use consistent, sheltered language with beginners.
- Reconsider your pacing to allow sufficient time for modeling and providing target language explanations.
- Share ideas and resources with like-minded colleagues.
- Try some tricks (use flags to show what language can be used, have T.L.-only days, aim for T.L. records, etc.)
- Continue analyzing why you use English.

Student Strategies

Why do students use English?

What strategies can I use to target those issues?

How can I partner with students to reach our target language goals?



Idea Bank:

- Collect and analyze data on language use.
- Use formative assessments to track students' use of the target language and to help them improve.
- Have students set realistic goals regarding T.L. use.
- Ensure that students feel safe and respected in class.
- Teach students survival phrases and post them in the room.
- Have students create word banks and word maps for their use.
- Teach students circumlocution. Model skills, engage students in game playing and scenarios, and teach descriptive words.
- Make it clear that English is the exception not the expectation.
- Connect with people who do not speak English.
- Engage students through games, music, videos, role plays, storytelling, and realia so they truly want to use the language.
- Focus on using the target language for real communication.
- Teach how to deal with uncertainty and to listen actively.
- Consider effective questioning techniques.
- Encourage students to read regularly.

Teaching Grammar

One or two grammatical structures that are always included in my courses:

How could I use the P.A.C.E. model with that grammatical structure?

Presentation

Attention

Co-Construction

Extension:

What other techniques might help increase target language use during grammar instruction?



Idea Bank:

- Focus on grammar for authentic communicative purposes (avoid teaching grammar in isolation).
- Implement the PACE model (Presentation, Attention, Co-construction, and Extension). Present a new structure/skill in an authentic context (ie. through storytelling or music).
- Draw students' attention to the structure. Work together to co-construct rules or patterns for the structure. Have students use the structure in meaningful ways as part of extension activities.
- Use frequent, formative assessments to determine what type of supports students need to successfully use new structures.
- Provide differentiated instruction, practice and final goals.
- Consider "flipping" to provide additional information about grammatical structures through videos/notes outside of class.
- Use structured input to allow students to acquire new structures while focusing on communication and meaning.
- Continue analyzing grammar instruction and sharing ideas with colleagues (try a video club format).

Teaching Culture

What do I want my students to learn about the target culture? What are my main goals?

How can I provide more of an authentic cultural backdrop to some lessons/units I teach?

What cultural lessons am I currently teaching in English? Could I realistically make changes to increase use of the target language?



Idea Bank:

- Model acceptance and respect for other people.
- Teach students about the dangers of oversimplifying traditions or applying generalizations.
- Weave cultural information into every class. An authentic cultural context should provide the backdrop for every unit.
- Incorporate realia, literature, fables, role plays, personal stories, connections with people from the target culture, and popular culture (movies, music, websites and magazines).
- Help students connect with other people and their perspectives.
- Consider delaying certain cultural lessons until students develop the language skills and proficiency to discuss the topic in depth.
- Provide English cultural readings, videos or materials as homework or as part of a plan for a substitute teacher.
- Work with colleagues in other content areas so that they can provide relevant background information in English.

My Plan

Ideas to implement immediately:

Ideas I want to work on in the next months:

Ideas I want to reconsider throughout the year:

Networking

If you would like to continue sharing ideas and discussing the topic of strategies for staying in the target language, consider joining our Google Group (TargetLanguage@GoogleGroups.com). To join the group, send an email to RStathakis@gmail.com and you will receive an invitation. Then, you can send emails to the group and set up your preferences for how often you receive emails.