



Learner Styles and Promoting Learner Autonomy

Session 2

Icebreakers and Introductions

Suggestions:

- Getting to know you
- How much do you know about Ireland
- Cultural Comparisons
- What Kind of Teacher are you?



Multiple Intelligences

Multiple Intelligences Test (in notes)

Focus on the fact that this is just a guideline and we focus on it to emphasize the types of tasks and areas of study that we need to consider in the classroom

Learner Autonomy

Learners take responsibility for how and what they learn. Through reflection on what and how they learn in class, and being aware of their strengths and weaknesses they can learn for themselves outside the classroom. There is more focus on the individual and their individual needs. ‘How can I take responsibility for my own learning outside the classroom?’

Learner Independence

The same as above but referring to in the classroom. The learners are empowered to look into a subject in more detail through collaboration and co-operation with peers. Teacher is less of an authority figure and more of a mentor/facilitator.

By promoting learner independence in the classroom, we give the learners the strategies to be autonomous outside of the classroom. So

**Learner independence leads
to learner autonomy**

Learner Autonomy

How can I make my classes more autonomous?

The classroom materials could be _____

The tests could be _____

The classroom materials could be _____

Language presentations could be _____

What else?

Encouraging Learner Independence

How can I help my learners be more independent? (1 – 5 ?)

Base all classroom activities on materials the learners have supplied themselves?

Get one half of the learners to make progress tests for the other half of the class?

Full handout here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jbWf1KcnY1DyUOKJ96Zu4E4I5O8EkqieF52Gq1pOgs/edit?usp=sharing>

Positive or Negative: Group work

The student selects what is to be learned

The student identifies own needs

The student selects the teaching material

The student is responsible for self-motivation

The student monitors own progress

The student works at own speed

The student chooses when to be assessed

The student chooses how to be assessed

The student develops own learning and study strategies

The student sets own learning goals

Looking at some common Learner Independence Strategies

- Seeking clarification
- Learner dictionary work
- Using prompts to aid memory

More...

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nXjYyaycCo_BW36SY3_pW9zJwDDp9TlNO_R5mlC4LyiU/edit?usp=sharing

Debate

Team A: Advantages of promoting Learner Independence

Vs.

Team B: Disadvantages of promoting Learner Independence

