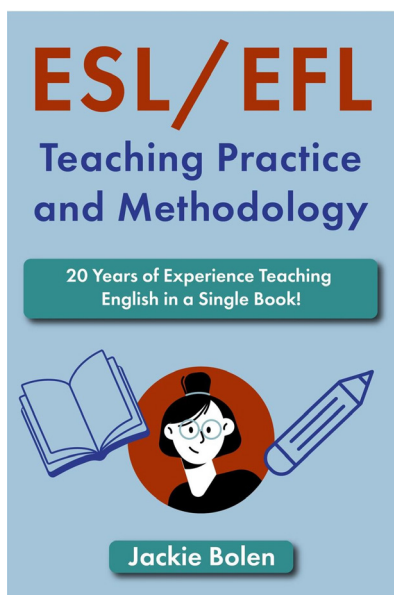


## BOOK REVIEW



<b>Title:</b>	ESL/EFL Teaching Practice and Methodology: 20 Years of Experience Teaching English in a Single Book!
<b>Author:</b>	Jackie Bolen
<b>Publisher:</b>	Independently published
<b>Year:</b>	2022
<b>No. of pages:</b>	214
<b>ISBN:</b>	9798215934203
<b>Reviewers:</b>	Ali Zahabi, <i>King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Thailand</i> & Mansour Amini, <i>Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia</i>

### Preface

English is becoming more significant as a lingua franca in today's globalised society. As a result, ESL/EFL teachers are in high demand. On the other hand, teaching English to speakers of other languages may be difficult. This is because ESL/EFL students come from various backgrounds and have varying degrees of ability. Jackie Bolen's *ESL/EFL Teaching Practice and Methodology* is a practical approach to teaching English as a second or foreign language. Author Jackie Bolen has created various ways to teach English throughout her 20 years of experience as a CELTA/DELTA certified instructor.

### Book overview

The present book is an instructional guide for teaching English as a second or foreign language (ESL/EFL). The recommendations put forth by Jackie offer a straightforward and succinct approach that can assist teachers in incorporating instructional diversity and reorienting their focus towards learners.

As stated by the author in the introduction, the aim of this book is to offer language educators useful and efficient teaching strategies. The author acknowledges that educational books, TESOL courses, and conferences often contain theoretical information that is not as beneficial. With this book, the author aims to exclusively discuss teaching methods that have been demonstrated to be useful in real-world language classroom settings. The book aims to present over 150 concepts, ranging from fostering relationships with students to offering practical language learning methods.

The book focuses on a range of methodologies, strategies, and approaches for teaching various language skills. It is systematically organized and addresses various language teaching aspects

to provide a comprehensive approach to classroom instruction. It begins by highlighting student-centered classrooms, pair or small group work, and considerations for learning styles. Following this introduction, the book delves into different methods of instruction, including task-based learning (TBL) and communicative language teaching (CLT) among others. Following a discussion of cognitive load management strategies, the book switches to practical teaching strategies with an emphasis on real-world applications. The following sections emphasize the value of effective monitoring, feedback, and communication between teachers and students. The book then goes into discourse and language interaction in the classroom providing insights into opportunities for educators to pursue professional development.

The author is aware of the challenges that teachers frequently encounter when reading theoretical or inapplicable content in books, courses, and conferences. As a result, this book has been designed specifically for teachers who want practical advice and methods they can implement in their language-learning classes. ESL/EFL teachers will find this book to be a useful resource, regardless of whether they are experienced teachers in the field or newcomers. The book can also be adapted for many different learning levels as the content covers a wide variety of language teaching topics, such as fundamental ideas, skill development, and teaching techniques at various language levels.

The necessity of providing a good and engaging learning environment for ESL/EFL students is emphasised in the book as well. This entails developing a classroom environment where students feel safe to take chances and are driven to learn. Jackie believes teachers should have happy, engaged pupils in lessons. An example of a positive environment is when minimal disruptions are handled immediately and constructively, with compassion and kindness. For instance, in order to effectively engage and motivate students in the classroom, the author emphasizes the significance of understanding their motivations for learning English (otherwise known as the concept of “Figure Out the Why”).

## **Strengths**

This book’s strengths can be seen in how well it accomplishes its goal, which is giving ESL/EFL teachers practical, doable strategies to improve their instructional methods and create engaging language learning experiences. The book’s effectiveness in achieving this goal is influenced by its structure, content, and approach.

A variety of practical teaching approaches in one resource makes it a valuable starting point for teachers. The book illustrates crucial elements in teaching, such as lesson planning, classroom management, grammar instruction, speaking activities, and assessment techniques. The book succeeds in its commitment to providing useful, real-world strategies that specifically address language teachers’ needs. The author also actively tackles the frequent problem of encountering theoretical or less instructive material in the field by offering over 150 tried-and-true ideas, all based on the author’s two decades of classroom experience.

The book’s thorough examination of a variety of language teaching-related topics ensures that it takes into account the multifaceted nature of language education. The book provides a

comprehensive approach to teaching by addressing student-centered classrooms, instructional strategies, cognitive load management, monitoring, feedback, and individual language skills.

The book also excels at offering crystal-clear, real-world examples that show how the suggested strategies can be implemented within the classroom. The book considers the context in which each strategy would be most helpful and provide suggestions for teachers on how to modify the methods for their particular classroom settings. Not only are the suggestions easy to implement, but educators can rest assured that the suggestions made are based on real-world teaching experiences that have been refined over many years of practice.

In a nutshell, this book's strengths are in its practicality, comprehensiveness, learner-centered approach, provision of real-world examples, and the author's credibility based on her own expertise. The book proves to be a useful tool for improving the teaching methods of ESL/EFL teachers and fostering productive language learning environments by directly addressing the needs of language educators and offering practical strategies that support its aim.

### **Weaknesses**

This book showcases numerous commendable aspects that greatly benefit language educators; however, it is important to acknowledge a couple of areas that could be further enhanced:

While the book is full of valuable instructional techniques, a more comprehensive integration of methodologies supported by research might be more beneficial. This may provide educators, especially those who value evidence-based practices, a stronger foundation for choosing and putting those strategies into practice. A more solid research basis could enhance educators' confidence in the effectiveness of the strategies proposed. Although the book's emphasis on teaching techniques is beneficial, it could further enhance its content by exploring the crucial aspect of assessing student progress and the results of instructional strategies.

These considerations should not overshadow the book's positive contributions to the field of language education. By thoughtfully addressing these areas, the book could offer an even more comprehensive and well-rounded resource for educators seeking to elevate their teaching practices.

### **Final thoughts**

Overall, this book presents meaningful and constructive support for ESL/EFL teachers. However, it can be improved by further explaining certain topics such as cultural considerations and introducing interactive components in classrooms to enhance the learning experience. Though with that said, the book has fulfilled its goal in other aspects that these shortcomings can be considered an after-thought. We, therefore, highly recommend this book to ESL/EFL teachers seeking a practical guide for improving classroom instruction.

The book's core strength lies in teaching techniques and strategies rooted in real-world classroom scenarios, providing a practical edge to the content. The author's insights into tapping into

students' motivations and personalizing lessons align well with effective teaching practices that resonate with learners. Educators will appreciate the relatability and authenticity that these techniques bring to the teaching process.

Moreover, its emphasis on practicality, applicability, and addressing common classroom challenges demonstrates its potential to greatly benefit both novice and experienced teachers alike. The comprehensive coverage of diverse teaching methodologies, coupled with the author's focus on student-centered approaches, makes it a resourceful guide for creating engaging and effective language learning environments.

In conclusion, the book's emphasis on practical teaching strategies based on the author's extensive experience is commendable. While it could benefit from a stronger integration of research-backed methodologies and more guidance on assessment and evaluation, its value as a resource for educators seeking immediate implementation of effective teaching techniques remains clear. Lastly, the book's alignment with learner-centered approaches and its provision of real-world examples make it a valuable addition to the toolkit of language educators, contributing positively to their instructional practices and fostering enriched language learning experiences.

## THE REVIEWERS

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