

Course Topic: Classroom Management**Course Instructor:**

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Course Synopsis:

The whiteboard, or any similar surface for writing on, is a key tool for every teacher to master in order to be effective as an instructor. The whiteboard allows you to give students supplementary visual information to add to what you're saying verbally. In this session, we'll take a quick look at some of the key things to keep in mind when you're using your whiteboard as you teach language.

Course Agenda:

1. The Role of the Whiteboard
2. Organizing Your Whiteboard
3. Tips for Using the Whiteboard

1. The Role of the Whiteboard

The whiteboard plays a number of important roles in the language classroom.

- ***It provides students with the visual side of the language.*** As we speak and interact with our students, we're providing them with the verbal side of the language only. Students require both the verbal and the visual sides of the language in order to thoroughly learn any language.
- ***It supports different student learning styles.*** Auditory learners are automatically catered to when we verbally teach a lesson. The whiteboard allows you to cater to visual learners by providing visual information to support the lesson. Kinesthetic learners are engaged by having them work with the language up at the board.
- ***It allows you to fluidly represent what's going on in the lesson in a visual manner.*** You can elicit responses from students throughout the lesson and visually represent that information up on the board. This is in contrast to PowerPoint presentations, for example, which must be created before the lesson begins.
- ***It allows you to highlight key points throughout your lesson.*** This helps to focus student attention on those key points allowing them to better remember what you're trying to teach.

2. Organizing Your Whiteboard

It is important to have a clear picture in your head of how you are going to use your whiteboard space. If you use the space randomly, it can be confusing for students. Instead, have specific areas of the board designated for different things so that students always know where to find certain information throughout the lesson. There are many different ways to organize your whiteboard, the key, however, is to be consistent. The image below illustrates one possible way to organize your whiteboard space.



You also want to think about how you can organize the working space of your whiteboard. One useful tip is to use columns and rows to keep the information you're working with as organized as possible.

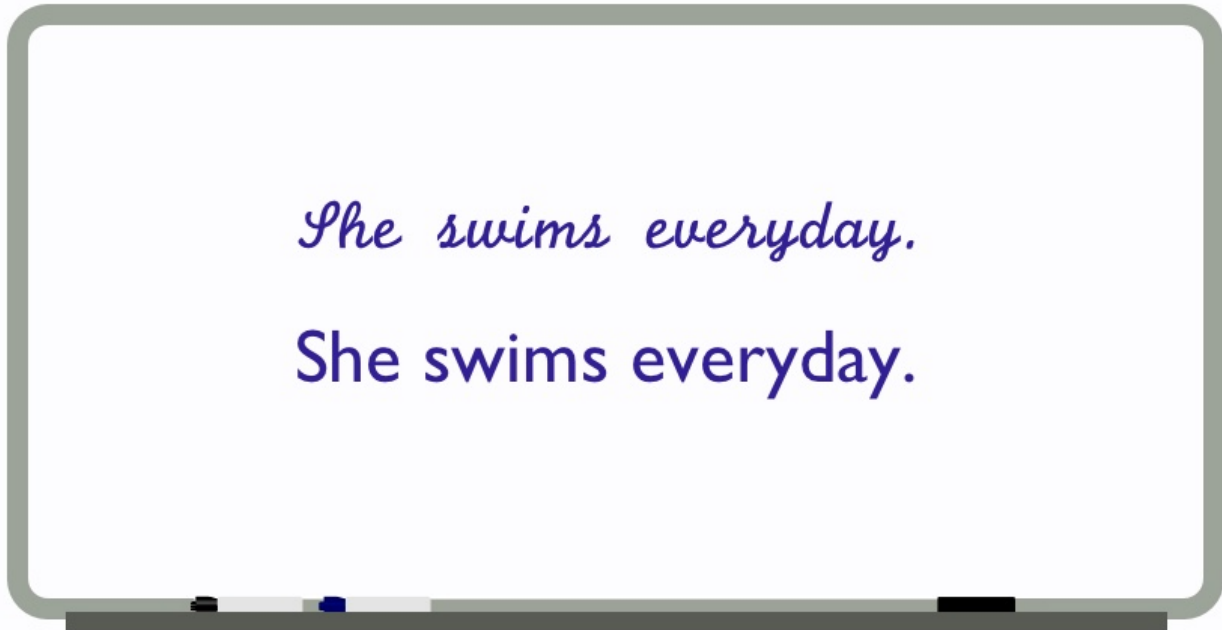
Subject	+	Verb	+	Frequency marker
She		swims <u>s</u>		everyday
He		runs <u>s</u>		once a month

3. Tips for Using the Whiteboard

Now we'll take a look at some tips to keep in mind as you're using the whiteboard as a teaching tool. These tips also apply to any similar surface that you're writing on as your lesson progresses such as a blackboard or smartboard.

Tip #1: Print, don't write.

Printing is clearer and easier for students to read, particularly if their first language is not English.



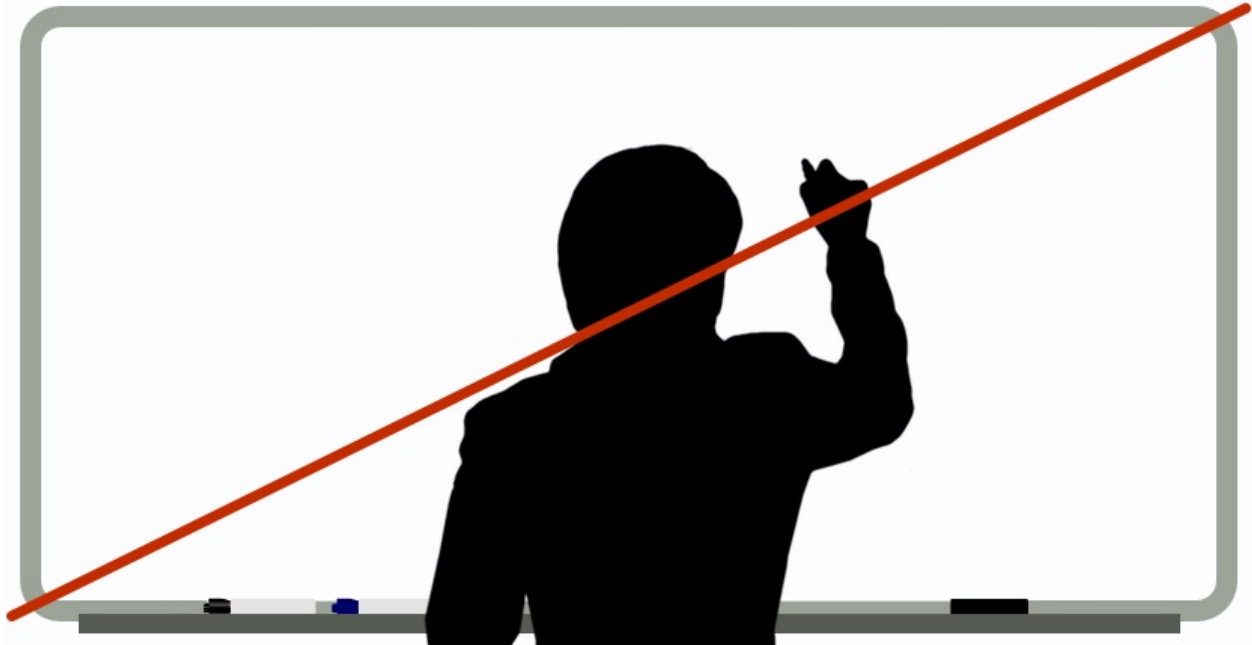
Tip #2: Make sure your printing is large enough to be seen from the back of the classroom.

It is a good idea to test this out before beginning your lesson by writing in your usual style and then checking to see if it is easy to read from the back of your classroom.



Tip #3: Don't turn your back on the class as you write.

You want to have a conversation with your class, not the whiteboard. Facing the board as you write also makes it more difficult for students to hear what you're saying. Practice turning your body towards the class as you write on the board.



Tip #3 (for lefties!): Adjust your writing style to avoid turning your back on the class.

It is even more challenging for teachers who are left-handed to avoid having a conversation with the whiteboard. Try different approaches to find what works best for you. You may find it easier to stand to the right of the board and turn your head to the class as you write or you may prefer standing to the left of the board and turning your body in the opposite direction towards the class.



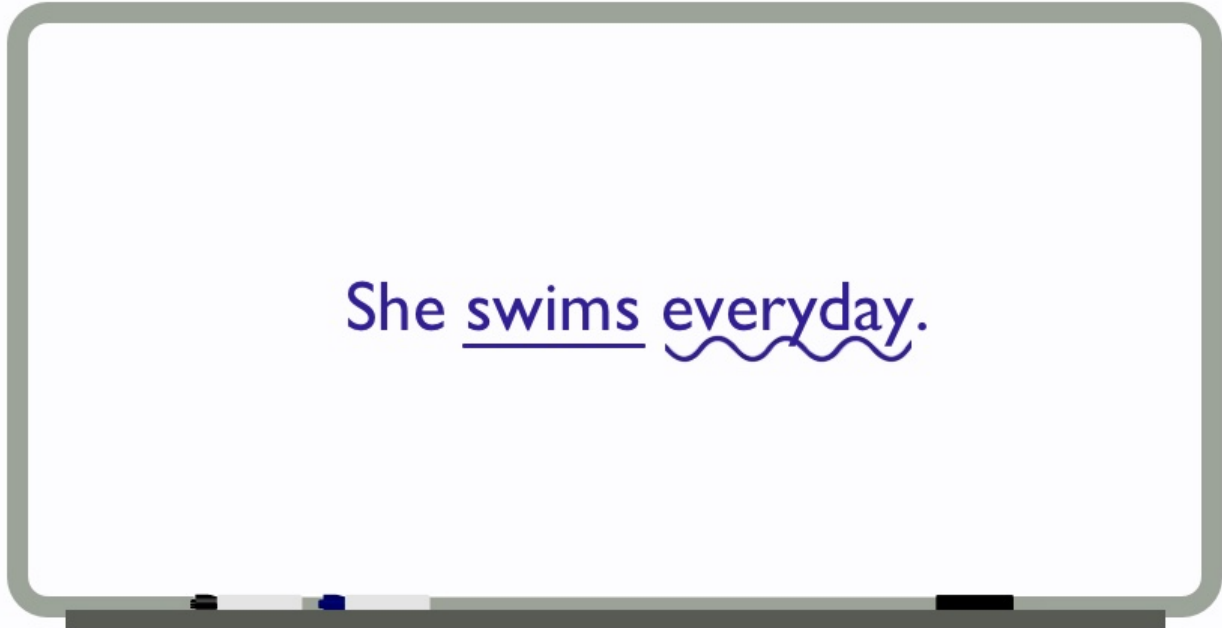
Tip #4: Use colours to help reinforce your teaching point.

For example, you can use coloured markers to represent the different parts of a sentence.



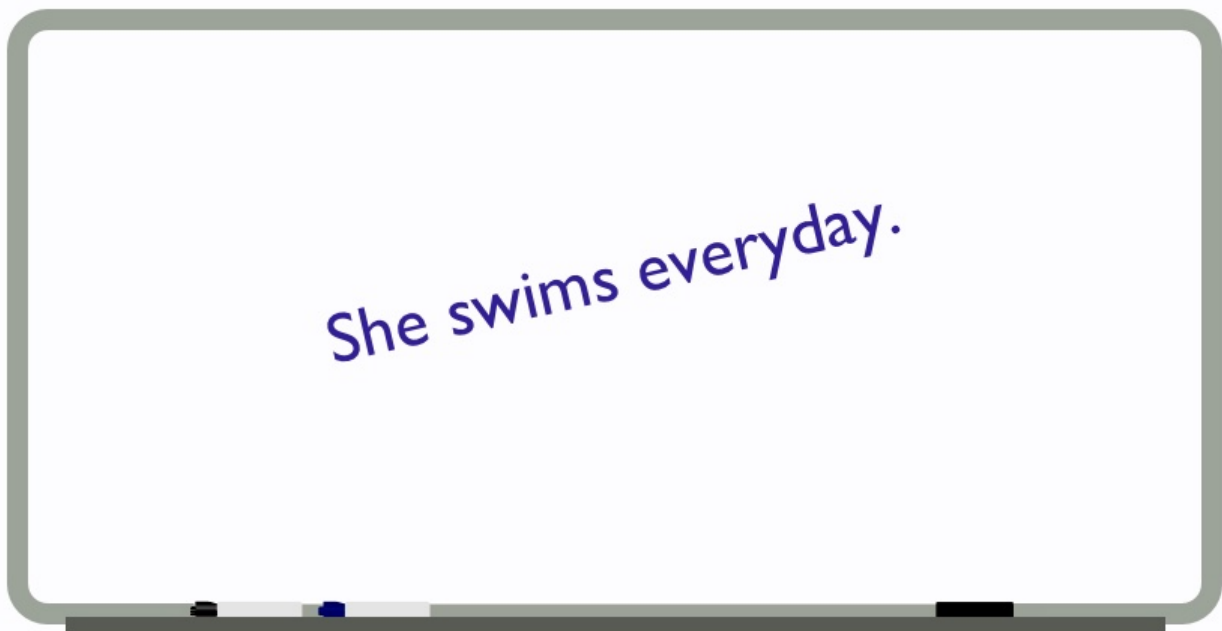
Tip #5: Use symbols to help reinforce your teaching point.

If you don't have coloured markers, a system of symbols can be just as effective at representing different sentence components or relationships between words.

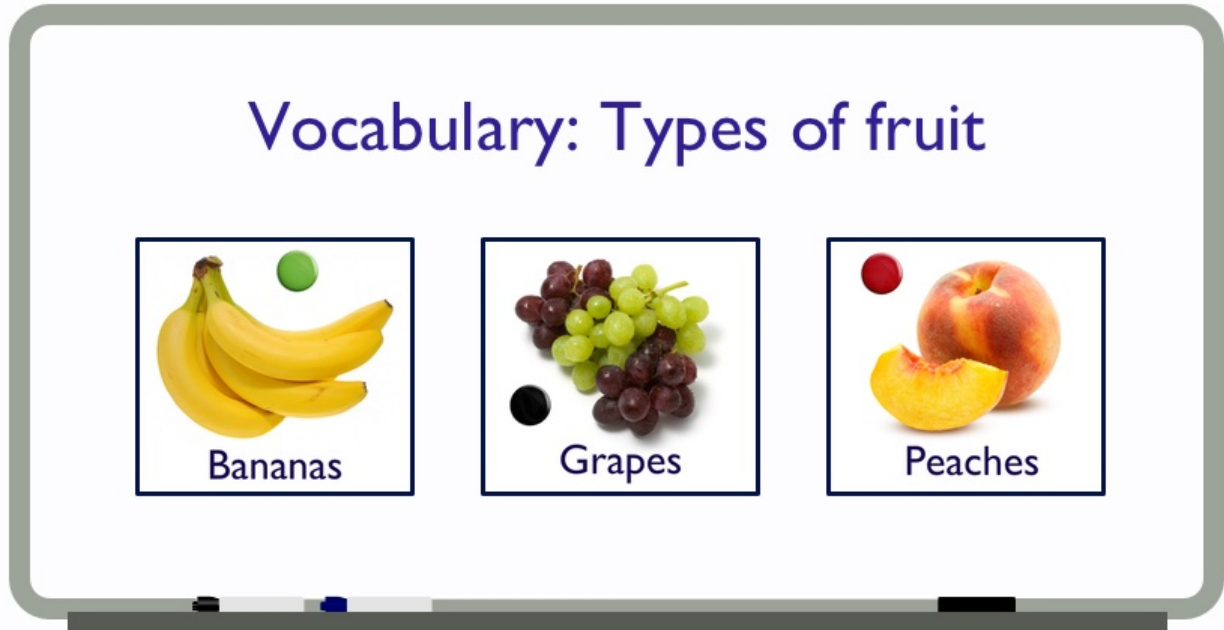


Tip #6: Don't write on an angle.

Try to keep your writing parallel to the lines of the whiteboard so that it is easier for students to read.



Tip #7: If your writing surface is magnetic, make use of it.
You can post pictures, diagrams or flashcards for the whole class to see.



Tip #8: Make sure your whiteboard is clean.
Layers of residue can make your printing difficult to read, particularly if you are using different coloured markers. Get into the habit of cleaning your whiteboard regularly, either at the beginning or end of your classes.



Tip #9: Make sure your whiteboard markers work.

This is a situation every teacher gets caught in. Make sure you test out your markers before beginning your lesson and always have back-up markers on hand in case they run out.



A Final Tip...

Remember to practice writing on the whiteboard. It is a skill that does not come naturally to most teachers and requires time and practice to perfect.

Thanks for participating!

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