

Lesson Planning

Lesson Planning

A lesson plan is simply a step-by-step guide to what an EFL teacher plans to do in the classroom on a given day. The more detailed the steps are, the better.

Ideally, if you could not go to work on a given day, another teacher could read your lesson plan and know exactly how to teach your class on that day. A good lesson plan might even include specific gestures and cues used for various parts of the lesson. That's how detailed your plan should be.

There are literally hundreds of types of lesson plans but there is not one format accepted by all schools. Many schools have their own set format; others will let you use whatever format you like. There is, however, some general agreement about what should be included in a good lesson plan.

Generally agreed components of a lesson plan include:

Day/Date:

Lesson Name: What will you call the lesson?

Class/Level: Age, topic, skill level, class name

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Materials: List everything you need to teach this lesson. List every possible thing you will need to take to the classroom, and/or obtain from the school to complete the lesson. This list can help you make sure you don't forget any handouts or special materials that you need to take to the class.

Textbook/Course book name: From what book (if any) are you working or drawing the lesson?

Unit—title—page number: Specifically where in that book?

Goal/Aim: What are we working toward today?
Describe the final result of the lesson in this format:

The students will be able to ___(do what?)_____.

Example: *The students will be able to ask and answer questions about their hobbies and interests*

Grammar Structures Employed: Show the structures. Use a structure chart if needed.

Questions and Answers relevant to your lesson:
Ask during the warm-up to elicit from students what they may or may not know about the topic to be covered.

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NOTE: The actual lesson—what you will be doing during the class—starts below.

Warm-up: This includes a review (revision) of the previous lesson linked to this new lesson; questions and answers you have written above, used to elicit conversation using the new structures and function; to show examples of what your students will learn in this lesson. In some countries and with some age groups, this may come in the form of a specifically designed game.

Presentation (or ESA format): Note the target language to be taught and how you will teach it. Include how you will stimulate the student's interest in the language and how you might elicit from the students the language you are planning to teach. Include details as specific as when you might model structures and dialog and when you will require a repeated response (choral response) from the students. Include a structure chart for the grammar or the dialog you intend to teach.

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Practice: Include the specific activities and attach any hand-outs to the lesson plan. Include up to three practice activities, sequencing them from most to least structured slowly giving the students more freedom.

Production: This is where students really learn and generalize a new language skill. Allow/encourage the students to talk about themselves, their lives or specific situations using their own information but focusing on the target language that was taught in the presentation and practiced in the previous activities. Include exactly what you will ask the students to do and that you intend to monitor students and encourage and correct them as needed in their use of the target language.

Conclusion: Discuss/recap what you have studied and learned during the lesson. In some countries and for some ages, this will be followed by a game that uses the target language.

You will find literally thousands of EFL/ESL lesson plans on the Internet. Take a look at few and you will rarely see the same format used. But they will generally have, in one form or another, most of the information indicated above.

For any links on this page that have changed or don't work, try to copy and paste the URL into a browser window. If they still don't work, check the lesson planning page at www.TEFLBootCamp.com for updated or changed links (as noted on the Contents page).

Try the websites below and see what they have and note the similarities and differences between the lesson formats. Don't get stuck in a rigid idea of what a lesson plan should look like. You'll notice many that are called "lesson plans" really aren't!

The Internet TESL Journal:

EFL and ESL Lessons and Lesson Plans

<http://iteslj.org/Lessons/>

ESL Teacher Lesson Plans & Worksheets

<http://www.usingenglish.com/lesson-plans.html>

Also from **English Raven** are two very useful (PDF) downloads:

Guide to Lesson Planning and Reflective Teaching Notes

http://www.englishraven.com/files/Lesson_planning_guide_244459.pdf

Lesson Planning Sheets and Reflective Teaching Notes

http://www.englishraven.com/files/Lesson_planning_sheet_641321.pdf