

Teaching Methodologies

- Flow Language Institute uses a blend of proven methodologies to support adult English language acquisition in a student-centered environment. Core instructional approaches include:
 - The Direct Method – Emphasis on English-only communication and contextual learning.
 - Task-Based Learning – Language acquisition through activities and real-world problem-solving
 - The Natural Approach – Focus on comprehension and stress-free language production
 - The Structural Approach – Attention to grammatical forms and sequencing
- Instructors are expected to follow the methodologies outlined in approved textbooks and teacher's guides. Supplemental methods may be used when appropriate and with approval from the Director.
- Student-centered instruction is the foundation of classroom teaching. Teachers are expected to:
 - Actively monitor student work and provide direct support during in-class activities
 - Encourage learner autonomy and promote self-directed learning habits
 - Manage technology use (e.g., phones, online tools) to ensure it supports, rather than distracts from, the lesson
- Any teacher-created methods or materials must align with the instructional goals of the program and are subject to review or adjustment by the Director.

There are actually five stages that our students might go through on their language acquisition journey :

1. Silent or Receptive Stage : During this stage students may be silent or use non-verbal communication, like pointing or nodding their head. The focus is on building the confidence it takes to actually speak and on learning basic vocabulary. There's no language fluency at this stage in the game.
2. Early Production : Students might begin speaking in one- to two-word responses or short phrases and could acquire upwards of 1,000 new vocabulary words during this stage. Confidence grows even though a student might not be comfortable with the language yet.
3. Speech Emergence : This is where the real communication begins. Sentences and phrases become longer and more complex, though the rules of grammar might still be foggy. Greater comprehension is gained in this stage and students might begin reading or writing in the acquired language.
4. Intermediate Fluency : Learners begin thinking in the second language during this stage. Take, for instance, a French student to whom you're teaching English. Previously when they had encountered a small, furry rodent gathering nuts they would think "écureuil". At this point they might see that same furry rodent and think "squirrel." Comprehension and fluency greatly increase at this level.
5. Advanced Fluency : This is full mastery of the language. It can take between two and 10 years to get to this stage. The work doesn't stop once the language has been mastered, either. There must be ongoing opportunities to engage in the language to keep sharp.