

Characteristics of an Effective Teacher!

Every teacher wants to be good, but what exactly are the qualities that make a good teacher? What are the skills, talents, and characteristics, and can they be taught or learned?

Teaching can be quite satisfying for people who do it well. I know this because I am a teacher, too. Although I do not think I'm always the best teacher, do I know that the majority of my students love me, and I guess this is partly why good things happen in my classroom.

I have spent a lot of time thinking about—and done a lot of research into—the question of what characteristics make a teacher effective and how I can succeed in the classroom. Although every great teacher has their own special, unique style, I have found that there are nine specific universal qualities that are necessary for anyone who wants to teach effectively, whether they want to teach in an elementary school or a university. If any teacher possesses the following characteristics and qualities, he/she can become a very good teacher with large fan base.

What Makes a Great Teacher

- expert communication skills
- superior listening skills
- deep knowledge and passion for their subject matter
- the ability to build caring relationships with students
- friendliness and approachability
- excellent preparation and organization skills
- strong work ethic
- community-building skills
- high expectations for all

Each of these characteristics is described fully below. Although great teachers may also possess a number of other wonderful qualities (like a sense of humor, personality, flexibility, kindness, leadership, classroom management, a calm demeanor, experience, and the ability to multitask), these are the qualities the best teachers universally possess.

Education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire.

— William Butler Yeats

1. Excellent Communication Skills

You'd think that the most important quality for a teacher to possess would be knowledge, since that's what the job is all about, after all: sharing knowledge. But no matter how

knowledgable a person is, if they can't convey what they know to others in a way that is not only understandable but engaging, the knowledge itself is useless.

- If a teacher's communication skills (verbal, nonverbal, and visual, which involve speaking, writing, imagery, body language, and the organization of ideas into understandable structures) are good, they can convey knowledge with better skill and results.
- Since a large part of good communication is knowing when the audience has understood, these teachers notice when they have communicated effectively and when they have not. They will often paraphrase, illustrate, or take another tact entirely when it becomes apparent that their communication has fallen flat or has not reached or connected to the entire class.
- A good teacher notices when even one student among many does not understand, and makes an effort to communicate individually when necessary.
- Communication also involves explaining exactly what the assignments and expectations are. When students fully understand what is expected of them, it's much easier for them to deliver.
- Interestingly, not only are communication skills incredibly important in the classroom, but they are among the most important skills in any setting. According to a recent survey by the Pew Research Center, most Americans view communication as the most important skill for long term success “to get ahead in the world today.” So by being good communicators, teachers are modeling important lifetime skills by example.

2. Superior Listening Skills

In addition to being good communicators, good teachers also happen to be excellent listeners. As the Turkish proverb says, "If speaking is silver, then listening is gold." Of course, effective communication only happens when at least two parties are actively involved in the process together, and the only way to know if communication is heard is by asking (and listening to the answer).

So in an ideal learning environment, teachers ask important questions and then actively, carefully, empathetically listen to what learners have to say. When good teachers develop this patient quality in themselves, they start to become great. Great teachers listen hard and then use what they hear to improve the communication.

Those who know, do. Those who understand, teach.

— Aristotle

3. Deep Knowledge of and Passion for the Subject Matter

There is a saying that a teacher is only as good as what they know. If a teacher lacks knowledge in a subject, that dearth of understanding is passed along to the students. And keep in mind that although formal education is one way a teacher might gain the knowledge they need in order to teach well, there are other ways.

Passion is infectious. Love of a subject matter inspires a person to learn more, dig deeper, and think harder about it, so passion inspires deeper knowledge. The best teachers are those that clearly love their subjects and pass that passion and desire to learn more on to their students.

When the teacher not only has the right answer to a student's question but can expand the discussion with vivid examples, amusing illustrative anecdotes, and relevant facts, and when the teacher has a deep well of understanding and expertise to draw on, then every lesson is enriched, and every student might be inspired.

4. The Ability to Develop Strong Relationships With Students

It's not enough just to know what you're talking about, though, and a great teacher doesn't only teach from the head. In the best classrooms, hearts are involved, as well. In order to create successful learning environments, great teachers need to be able to build caring relationships with their students. It is the caring student-teacher relationship that facilitates the exchange of information.

The best teachers are often the ones that care the most deeply, not only about their jobs, but about every student they serve. It's not enough just to love the subject matter: Great teachers also share a love of students. Caring about the students is what inspires teachers to reach out, do better, communicate more, ask, learn, refine, and improve. This is something that can't be taught, not even in the best school.

5. Friendliness and Approachability

Because it's the teacher's job to help students learn, they must be easy to approach. Students will have questions that can't be answered if the teacher isn't friendly and easy to talk to. The crabby, unapproachable, terse, mean, arrogant, rude, all-business teacher can't last long. If the students think of their teacher as their enemy, they certainly won't learn much. The best teachers are the most open, welcoming, and easy to approach.

6. Preparation and Organization Skills

No matter how charming you are, if you show up for a class without an excellent plan for how to teach your material, you won't succeed. Great teachers spend endless hours outside of the classroom preparing, designing lessons, learning more (both about their subject matter specifically and how to teach, in general), participating in professional development, and thinking of fresh and interesting ways to reach the students.

The best teachers have excellent lesson plans, lectures, and assignments that they continually improve. They have studied extensively and read widely about how to teach and methods to facilitate learning. They structure their days, lessons, and units in a way that fosters maximal understanding and interest. They collaborate with other teachers and attend classes to learn more about their subject matter and how to best convey it. They are available outside of class, and they grade papers quickly, writing personal notes to help their students understand.

A good teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.

— Henry Adams

7. A Strong Work Ethic

Anyone who's done it knows that teaching is one of the hardest jobs there is. The secret that keeps them going is that great teachers really, really want to be great teachers, and they'll stop

at nothing do succeed. A great teacher will do almost anything to help their students. They always make time and they're always willing to help. If something doesn't work, they'll work tirelessly until they find a solution. A teacher's work is never done but the best ones never stop trying, they never quit.

8. The Ability to Build Community

The best teachers understand the importance of building supportive and collaborative environments. In addition to forming caring relationships with each student, the best teachers foster healthy and mutually respectful relationships between the students. They know how to establish guidelines and assign roles to enlist every student's help and participation. Every student feels like they are not only accepted by the larger group, but that their presence is a necessary ingredient in the classroom's magic. Their classrooms are like little communities where each individual plays a part and feels at home.

9. High Expectations for All

Studies show that a teacher's expectations have a huge impact on student achievement. The best teachers have high expectations for all of their students. They expect a lot from each student, but those expectations are both challenging and realistic. This doesn't mean they hold all students to the same high standard, but instead that they know what each student is capable of individually and strive to help each one attain their personal best.

TEACHING METHODS

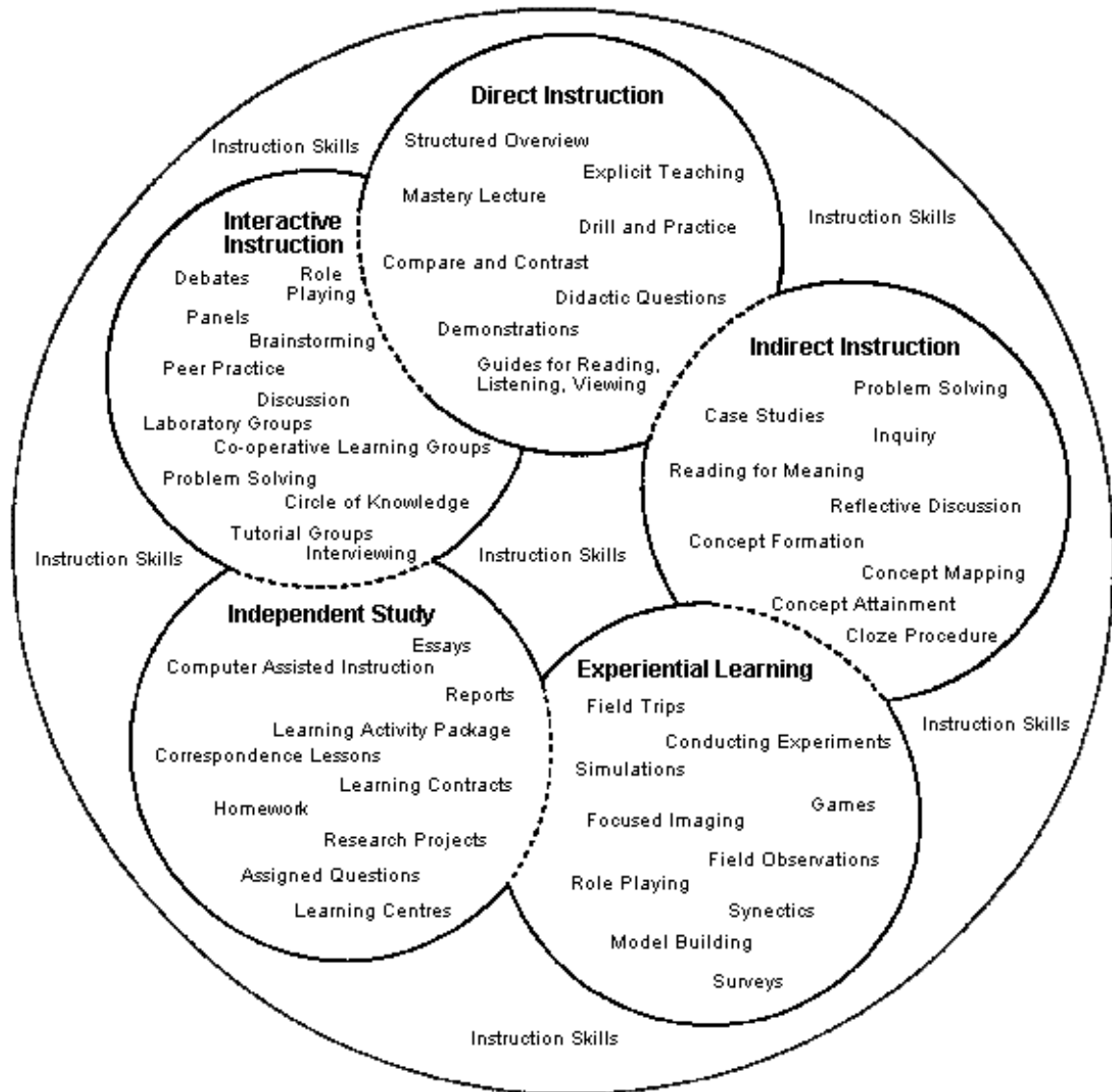
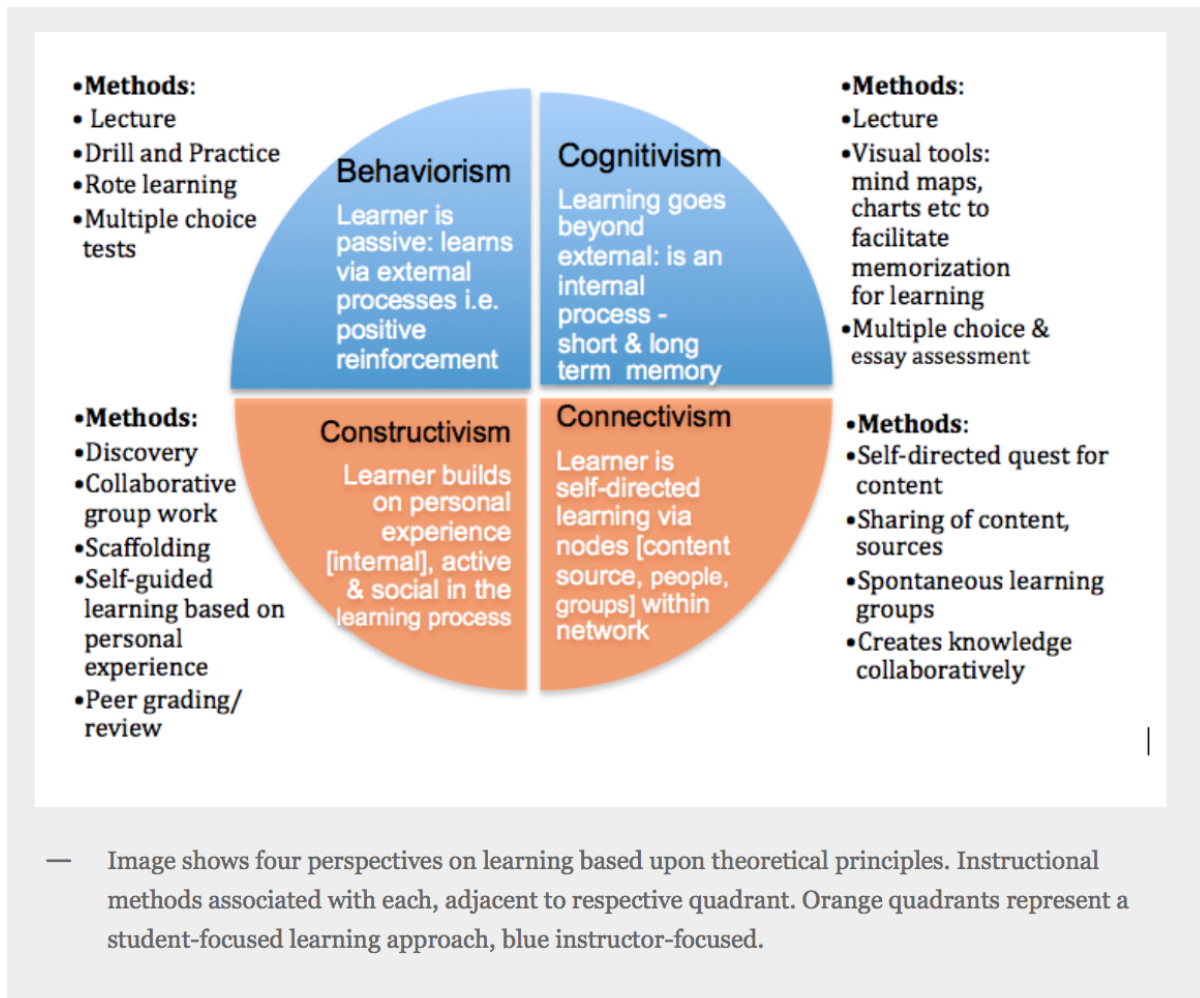


Figure 5. Instructional Strategies



Students get easily bored if their teacher cannot combine teaching methods in order to make each lesson unique and intriguing. Any information can be passed over to pupils in numerous ways. Some of them are easy to understand and remember and others are difficult. The combination of different methods of teaching is something each professional teacher should not only know but also implement in their classroom.

The variety of teaching methods types are must-know in the 21st century. This is the time for awaking curiosity in kids, getting away from monotonous patterns of giving important facts and information to children and trying to be as versatile as possible.

What are teaching methods? It is better to describe what teaching method really means. This term is used to describe the pedagogy, main principles of study, and educational strategies that are used by teachers in the classrooms to instruct students. There are 4 basic types of teaching methods used worldwide:

Approach where teacher is a ‘center’ of learning

Approach where students are a ‘center’ of study

Approach of using low-tech information

Approach of using high-tech materials

4 methods of teaching Each type of teaching a teacher uses in the classroom should depend on student demographics, a mission of the school or institution, a topic of the lesson, and the personal educational philosophy.

Teacher-centered learning

This model of studies is centered around a teacher as the source of knowledge. The method is based on the authority figure that passes the information over to students. Pupils, on the other end, can only listen to lectures and get instructions from their teachers. They cannot be active and participate in the lesson, ask questions as they are passive listeners. The main goal of a teacher-centered method is to teach and measure the knowledge based on assessments and various tests.

Advantages

- Logical arrangement of educational content
- Development of cooperation
- Focus on the subject
- Disadvantages Limited content
- Full dependency of students on teachers
- Summative evaluation

Disadvantages

- Limited content
- Full dependency of students on teachers
- Summative evaluation

Pupil-centered teaching

The process of learning in this method is evenly shared between a teacher and a student. They both play an important role while studying and it is a complete opposite to teacher-centered approach.

The teacher is like a coach to students. It is important to explain the new material and encourage understanding of it. The knowledge is evaluated through school and college projects, different types of assessments, discussions, portfolio etc. Both informal and formal tasks help to measure the level of knowledge.

This method of teaching connects studies with assessments to help students understand the discipline better.

Advantages

- Formative evaluation
- Active engagement of students in the learning process
- Emphasis on the meaningfulness of the knowledge being passed.

Disadvantages

- Special teacher skills required
- Can be difficult for some students
- Focus on student personal demands

Low-tech teaching

Even with technologies and innovations, some teachers are fans of traditional teaching with low-tech classrooms. Instead of typing notes, students write them by hand. This method can help to recall everything better because handwriting helps memorizing information.

While technology has been extremely useful it also has some educational disadvantages. For example, students who don't use auto-spell-auto-correct options develop better writing and spelling skills than those who rely on their computers and other gadgets.

Advantages

- Better writing skill development
- Better spelling skill development
- Better focus on the topic of the study
- Cheap

Disadvantages

- Lack of tools and features

High-tech learning

The fast development of technology, innovations, and the Internet that is quickly spreading all over the world influence the system of education. The high-tech learning method is based on using the latest technology in the classroom. This could be anything, from projectors to personal computers.

It often happens that homework and tasks are assigned to students over the Internet. Modern high schools and universities have personal websites with students' personal accounts. The Internet is an endless resource that can help in studies.

Advantages

- Better knowledge retention
- Active participation of pupils in the learning process
- Practice of collaboration skills

Disadvantages

- Distraction from the studies
- Could reduce student-to-student study groups.
- Labor-intensive lesson planning
- High cost

Teaching Methods- Advantages and Disadvantages

The group was asked to examine a teaching method and discuss the advantages and disadvantages involved with it. Once this had been done, suggestions could be made about how to deal with the disadvantages.

1. Group Work

Advantages	Disadvantages
Helps to break the ice in the group	Shy people can hide in a group
Promotes discussion	More confident people can take over
You get lots of ideas/ views	There can be a danger of personality clashes
Assists the tutor in recognising personalities of the group	Its' not always the best learning method
Helps people gain confidence	
Provides an opportunity to move people around	

To deal with the disadvantages you can mix the groups' don't always have the same ones; set time limits; Review ideas at the end of the lesson; tutor should monitor (eavesdrop) regularly; use a variety of different methods in classes.

2. Role Play

Particularly good for language classes

Advantages	Disadvantages
Fun	Shyness is a barrier
Good for practising vocabulary and pronunciation	Can be embarrassing
Easily recordable for RARPA	Can cause discomfort
Confidence building	Could damage confidence
Provides a good opportunity to mix within the group- work with a variety of partners	May not suit learning individual styles
Good for peer coaching	
Provides a supportive environment	
Adds "reality"	

Role play should be kept short, there should be clear instructions on what the aim is and care should be taken when pairing people, put weaker learners with stronger ones- differentiation

3. Question and Answer

Advantages	Disadvantages
A way of including all learners	Less confident learners will try to avoid being asked questions
Very good, immediate way of checking learning (assessing)	If directed too early at a particular learner, the rest can "switch off".
Expands a topic- makes learning more interesting	More confident learners can answer all the questions- rest will let them
Keeps all learners attentive	Tutor needs to be able to reframe a question in a number of ways to allow a learner to understand
Can provide a good opportunity to praise	
Good method of challenging capable learners	

Tutor should pose question and then nominate, make questions appropriate to the learner and be prepared to ask it several times in different ways.

4. Peer coaching

Advantages	Disadvantages
Good for support and confidence	Not necessarily good for read/write preferential learners
2 heads are better than 1	2 wrong heads can be twice as bad
Good working relationships can be developed	Peers may not cooperate
Learners learn more from their peers	They might chat more than learn
Provides learners with a learners view on things	Could start unhealthy competition
Excellent differentiation opportunity (1-1)	
Provides peer assessment opportunities	

All learning should be supported with resources that cover all learning styles; tutor should monitor discussions etc to ensure learners stay on task; tutor should group peers appropriately according to skill level and compatibility to ensure that weaker learners gain.

5. Demonstrations

These are the mainstay of practical classes. Tutors can rely on them too much.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Good for visual learners	Not so good for other learning styles
Learners can see the end result- model of good practice	Steps need to be shown in a different way to back the demonstration up (written instructions)
Shows the steps in order and end result	Difficult to satisfy all ability ranges
When followed by learner practice the skills are more likely to be retained	Not all learners may be able to see clearly
Learners can work at their own pace after demonstration	Can take too long- learners get frustrated, wanting to apply the skills
	They can go wrong, have to be prepared thoroughly
	Learners can break the demonstration up with questions

Demonstrations should be supported with handouts etc; they can also be shown using video (You Tube for example) in order to repeat difficult steps; they should be broken down into easily manageable steps which should be practised by learners and then brought together as a consolidation exercise (especially good in music classes); tutor must prepare properly, rehearse and have all necessary materials/ resources at hand; it has to work or learners will question the validity of the exercise.

6. Lecture Method

Lecture method of teaching is the oldest teaching method applied in educational institution. This teaching method is one way channel of communication of information. Students' involvement in this teaching method is just to listen and sometimes pen down some notes if necessary during the **lecture**, combine the information and organized it.

One of the problems in this method is to grab the attention of students in class room. Another big problem is that many students in the class cannot follow the theme. Learning has a strong influence on method of teaching.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Lecture Method

Advantages of Lecture Method of Teaching

1. In this teaching method a large amount the topics can be covered in a single class period.
2. Using of this method exclude the using of any equipment or Lab.
3. Learning material is not required.

4. Student listening skills developed.
5. Logical arrangement of the material in order to present it orally
6. Help to learn languages

Disadvantages of Lecture Method of Teaching

1. Psychologically this method is acceptable because individuals are not alike. Teacher delivers the same lecture to both students without recognizing the individual differences.
2. Learning is an active process thus study should encourage to actively participate in the class room instead of just listening the teacher.
3. Language using in the lecture is above the standard of the students. They are not able get full advantage of the lecture.
4. Lecture are often forgotten by the students soon after while learning is retained if activities are experienced.
5. Attention level is not the same while student listening the lecture.

Learning is not a simple process. The pouring process is educationally not perfect or recommended for secondary level students. At this level it is difficult for student to pick new concepts using lecture method of teaching. They actually are meaningful, active and interesting experiences or activity in the class.