

LEARNING STRATEGIES

At the Department of Foreign Languages of Zhytomyr State Technological University we use a placement test (English Grammar Placement Test (World English Test)) when placing students into an appropriate level/group before the course starts. It is a flexible test of English language proficiency, quick and easy to administer.

The entry level of students ranges from A1 to A2. It means that the majority of students have A1 and A2 levels of language proficiency. Thus, the data indicate that students need better and more effective ways of learning foreign languages and their teachers need to employ more effective teaching methods. The most significant change that has been taking place in the university language classroom is the shift from traditional models of learning to learner-centered ones. In the latter model the learner is central to the learning process and cooperates rather than competes with the other learners. In order to achieve the learning outcomes we start with an analysis of the learner's needs. The content of the General English course is determined by those communicative needs which are required for the learner's purposes. With effective learning strategies, students can learn faster and easier.

Language learning styles and strategies (learning strategies can be defined as specific actions, steps, or techniques used by students to enhance their own learning (Oxford, 1992) are among the main factors that help determine how our students learn a foreign language. Learning strategies can also enable students to become more independent, autonomous, lifelong learners. Skilled teachers help their students develop an awareness of learning strategies and enable them to use a wider range of appropriate strategies which can be classified as follows: affective strategies, communication strategies, cognitive strategies, meta-cognitive strategies and social strategies.

Our General English courses are designed to improve every aspect of English. Each lesson has clear objectives that contribute to overall progress and helps students to achieve their language goals. In the classroom our teachers use interactive methodology to make lessons interesting, engaging and bring your English to life. Wi-Fi enabled classrooms with interactive whiteboards, digital media and materials help to access both carefully selected materials and real world English. General English course can help to improve students' speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. Grammar and vocabulary are developed as well.

The third and the fourth years of study at ZhSTU include ESP classes. Being focused on very useful practical objectives, students can improve their study skills both in specific instructional settings and during self-study in which a learner works alone or with other learners without the control of a teacher.

For the identification of our students' specific needs, we proceed by first identifying the target situation and then carrying out a detailed analysis of the linguistic features of that situation.

Teachers provide students with structured learning tasks and monitor their progress. Our teachers help their students to become more confident when communicating in English both in social and professional environment.