

ESSAY EXAMPLES

In this essay I am going to explain my first experience of learning English and how my teachers tried to teach in the classroom, what methodologies they used to teach us and how successful these methods were in helping us to learn more and better in a shorter time in comparison to newer methods.

I started learning English when I was a guidance school student at the age of twelve. The class was a teacher-centered one. By this I mean the teacher was usually speaking, explaining or writing on the board and we had to listen without taking part actively in the learning process. For example, for teaching grammatical points, he began to explain the usage in Persian, then he gave us some examples on the blackboard and asked us to write them down in our notebooks to memorize them later. To teach simple past, he asked us to write down the usage, and added that we have groups of verbs, regular and irregular. He made us memorize the list of irregular verbs usually found at the end of the books. He gave an example of how to change it into question and negative forms. To teach new words, he usually asked us to repeat the words and write down the meaning in the second language without contextualization. After that he began to read the passage and translate it word by word. In the next session students had to be prepared to translate the passage and know the meaning of words by heart. The methodology he used is supposed to be the Grammar Translation method.

Clearly now I believe that it has some drawbacks since the students didn't contextualize the words – they couldn't use them in real-life situations. After graduation from high school, they couldn't produce even simple sentences and they were not able to communicate with others in English. Now I have come to the conclusion that this method can't be a good one because it doesn't prepare the students to use the language in new situations, so it is better to use other modern methods, such as the Direct Method or communicative approach. Surely these new methods can help the learners to use the language in real-life (realistic) situations and speak to others using the target language.