

Step – Self-reflection activities for online teachers

Answers

A. A young learner doesn't respond to some activities in a lesson and is very quiet. At other times, the learner is very animated. You're not sure what's causing this.

You could note down when the learner is animated in a lesson and when not, then look at the lesson plan and try to work out if there's a pattern. Alternatively, you could get permission from the parent to record the lesson and watch it back to try to find a pattern. If you can identify a pattern, you can then adapt lessons to avoid activities that create the problem.

B. A businesswoman isn't making a lot of progress with her speaking skills. You do a lot of speaking in lessons but the woman continues to make a lot of errors and uses the same phrases again and again.

You could record a lesson and watch the feedback you give after speaking activities to check that the learner understands clearly where she is now in her learning, where she needs to go and how to get there. You could also check that the learner has plenty of opportunities to try to bridge the gap between current and desired performance. You can plan future feedback to ensure these things are included.

C. An observer has mentioned that your board work in an online lesson is a bit unclear. You're not sure about this.

You could take a screenshot of the board at the end of a lesson and then analyse its strengths and weaknesses. You can then plan to overcome weaknesses by planning your board differently in subsequent lessons. You could also get feedback from learners about how clear your board work is.

D. You wonder if the questions you ask a group of adult B2+ learners are challenging enough for them.

If you planned your questions, you could look at your plan and reflect on how challenging they are. Alternatively, you could record a lesson and listen back to your questions to reflect on how challenging they were and the kinds of answers you received. You could then use that analysis to plan better questions in future.