

**ENHANCING STUDENTS' ABILITY TO SET CLEAR AND APPROPRIATE GOALS IN LEARNING ENGLISH**

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*The text highlights the interest of young people in learning foreign languages, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's initiative to improve the system of teaching foreign languages, and effective teaching methods. It emphasizes the importance of setting short-term and long-term goals, modeling the teacher's role, adopting a flexible approach, and fostering collaboration among students as key factors in enhancing language learning efficiency.*

Today, the interest of our young people in learning foreign languages is increasing, and therefore broad opportunities are being created for them. Under the chairmanship of the Honorable President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, a videoconference meeting was held on May 6, 2021, dedicated to measures for improving the system of teaching foreign languages. During the videoconference, the President emphasized that the time has come to establish a new system in our country that will serve as a strong foundation for the future in teaching foreign languages, and that from now on graduates of schools, lyceums, colleges, and higher

educational institutions must be proficient in at least two foreign languages. This strict requirement should become the main criterion in the activities of every educational institution leader, said Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

Today, teaching foreign languages through interactive games in schools is becoming a common practice. It is well known that conducting lessons based on various games enables students to demonstrate their abilities, concentrate better, improve their knowledge and skills, develop communication competencies, and become more confident. In the process of language learning, setting effective goals is extremely important for students learning English, as it provides direction and increases motivation. Having the right approach and clearly defining goals in foreign language learning is an essential skill that every learner can use regardless of age or academic level. Goal-setting strategies are an important tool for students, helping them achieve both academic and personal growth. By setting clear and achievable goals, learners can improve their performance and develop key skills necessary for future success. There are several fundamental methods for developing this skill.

### **Understanding Goal Categories**

Students should learn to distinguish between short-term and long-term goals. Short-term goals may include weekly objectives, such as memorizing ten new vocabulary words per day or mastering two or three thematic word groups during a week, while long-term goals may involve achieving fluency within six months. This distinction helps learners understand their own learning process.

#### **Short-Term Goals:**

Short-term goals focus on quick, achievable tasks that can usually be completed within days or weeks. For example:

- **Weekly goals:** learning ten new words or expressions related to everyday conversations.
- **Skill development:** focusing on specific skills such as practicing pronunciation or mastering a particular grammatical rule.
- **Assessing preparedness:** setting plans to prepare for upcoming exams or tests, such as reviewing grammar points or practicing listening comprehension.

These goals are attainable and can increase motivation and confidence in language learning.

#### **Long-Term Goals:**

Long-term goals require a broader perspective and sustained effort over a longer period, usually months or years. For example:

- **Achieving fluency:** aiming to speak English fluently within six months, which involves integrating skills such as reading, writing, speaking, and listening.
- **Meeting academic standards:** striving to reach a certain level, such as passing an English proficiency exam by a specific date.

Understanding the difference between these categories helps students better comprehend the effectiveness of their learning. It allows them to see that short-term goals serve as building blocks toward long-term aspirations. Moreover, achieving short-term goals provides a sense of success and strengthens learners' commitment to the larger goal of language mastery.

Encouraging students to regularly review and revise their goals helps ensure that they remain relevant and achievable, thereby improving the overall learning journey. Teachers can model the goal-setting process by sharing their own language-learning experiences. Demonstrating how to set goals and evaluate progress enables students to do the same. Through their personal experiences, successes, and challenges, teachers can explain the goal-setting process in depth and create a relatable context for learners. This approach builds trust and shows that goal setting is a skill that develops over time.

When teachers set clear, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) goals, they provide a concrete framework for language learners to follow. Additionally, regularly evaluating performance, reflecting on achieved results, and discussing setbacks help develop a culture of self-assessment among students. As a result, modeling goal setting equips learners with valuable strategies for personal and academic growth and increases their interest in learning.

Encouraging flexibility in goal setting allows students to adjust their goals based on their experiences and challenges. For example, when a language learner has unexpected free time, they can continue learning by reviewing new vocabulary or improving listening skills according to existing conditions. Such flexibility facilitates continuous growth and prevents frustration when obstacles arise.

Establishing peer-support groups where students can share their goals and plans increases accountability and motivation. Discussing each other's strengths and weaknesses can inspire collaboration and create a supportive learning environment.

By integrating these strategies, teachers can help students effectively set and achieve their English language learning goals, thereby enhancing their overall language-learning abilities and experiences.

Goal setting is not only a useful academic tool but also an essential life skill that promotes personal growth, increases motivation, and teaches valuable lessons in time management and discipline.

As the education system aims to nurture free-thinking, well-rounded, and mature individuals, we, as future teachers, will also contribute by developing innovative technologies and identifying effective ways to use them purposefully and efficiently.

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