

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

How a Caring Teacher Helped Me Learn English

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As a child, I was rather shy. Raising my hand in class or actively participating did not come easily to me. Most of the time, I preferred to observe and listen to others instead. However, English lessons were a different story. The moment I stepped into the classroom, I suddenly felt like a duck in water. Since childhood, I have always been fascinated by the language and eager to learn it. Yet, it was not just my passion for English that helped me open up — it was the influence of my primary school teacher.

After a long day at school, entering her classroom was like a breath of fresh air. The pressure and stress that had accumulated throughout the day were gone the moment I stepped inside. This was not just my experience — the atmosphere she created had the same calming effect on all of us. Her classes were always free of judgment or tension, which made them a safe space for learning. She had an extraordinary ability to create a warm, welcoming, and secure environment, where students could collaborate comfortably and feel confident as active members of the class (Ali et al., 2020).

What stood out to me the most was how naturally participation came during her lessons. Even for someone as shy as I was, and for other reserved students, contributing to her classroom did not feel hard. Her empathetic and inviting approach alone was enough to motivate us.

She seemed to understand perfectly that external factors play a key role in fostering a willingness to learn (Theodotou, 2014). One of her most effective strategies was incorporating educational games into her lessons. At the end of every class, she always had something exciting and interactive prepared for us, as a reward for our efforts. The combination of her teaching approach and these small yet thoughtful gestures made us leave her classroom in a positive and relaxed mood, making us look forward to our next meeting. Above all, she never missed a chance to appreciate our efforts. Whether we succeeded or needed to try again, she always had words of encouragement for us.

Her classes quickly became my favorite. I stopped viewing learning English only as a school obligation. Instead, it became something I enjoyed, almost like an entertainment, which led me to seek out opportunities to improve my English also on my own, in my free time.

Looking back, more than a decade later, I cannot remember the exact methods or techniques my teacher used to teach us. What I do remember, however, is her warm personality and the way she made me feel — valued and reassured. This is what made her the best teacher in my eyes. The impact she had on me extends beyond my time as a student. Now, that I am an English educator myself, what is most important for me is making sure my students feel heard and seen.

Although my experience as a teacher is still limited, I know that what sets my teaching apart is the friendly approach I have toward my students. It fills me with pride to know that my pupils can feel that I am always there for them and that they have the freedom to make mistakes, just as I did with my primary

school teacher. I believe that caring teachers create the next generation of caring teachers, and it is what makes the teaching profession thrive.

In Conclusion

This article emphasizes how an empathetic and supportive teaching approach fostered a students' development. By creating a safe and encouraging environment, a teacher helped a shy or reserved student feel comfortable participating and engaging in the learning process. Through methods like encouragement and interactive activities, students are motivated to enjoy learning, which can inspire a lasting interest in the subject. The article highlights the importance of empathy and strong teacher-student relationships in supporting student success.

References

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