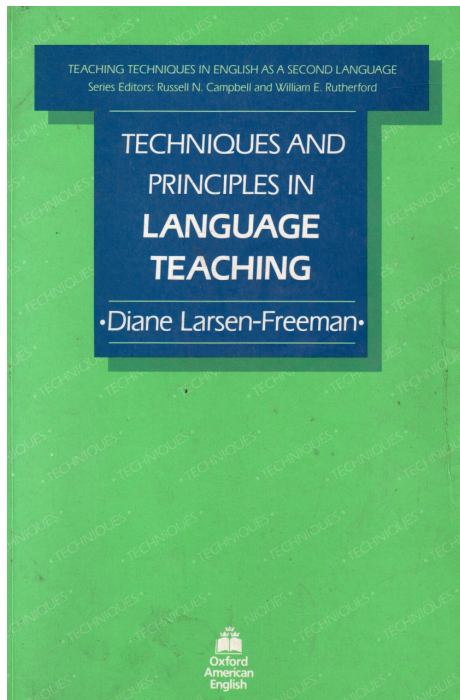


Book review: Techniques and Principles in Language Teaching by Diane Larsen-Freeman

Ana Gabriela Romero de La Mora
Universidad Autónoma de Baja California
Lic. Docencia en el Idioma Inglés
Tijuana BC. México



This book is excellent for teachers that need information on the well known language teaching methods that are used today. As a language teacher you must make decisions all the time, they can have either minor or profound implications.

One purpose of this book is to provide information to teachers and teacher trainers about eight methods of foreign language teaching. By reading this book, you will gain a better understanding of some principles on which these methods are based and of the techniques associated with each method.

Another purpose is to encourage you to examine your own beliefs about teaching and learning about how they influence your practice. Even if you are an experienced teacher, this book can help in understanding better why you do what you do. This book will help you observe the techniques a teacher is using and his or her behavior. It also gives you a broad idea of each principle and their objectives with some examples and with certain activities and material to be used in class.

The author also gives some useful ideas on how each method is different and unique. The teacher can experience and read about each one in particular to assure that she or he is applying them appropriately in the classroom. It also has its own conclusion and some reflection questions about each one to analyze. The observations are adequate for teachers that need more specific examples in how the principle is introduced. In every principle there are several sections that make clear how each one works.

First of all, there is an introduction which explains the principle. Secondly, there are brief descriptions of how a class is taught with activities concerning the principle. After this description, a list of observations and principles connecting with the lesson plans are presented. Another section is reviewing the principles, with questions and answers for the reader to clear any doubts about each one.

Every language teacher needs to use techniques when teaching, this book gives activities related to techniques that help teach the language in an interesting and entertaining manner. The reader has many options to teach and this book offers a variety of principles and techniques to think of and try to adapt to his or her classes.