

Module Four

THE BOARD

Module 4

9 Tips for Better Whiteboard Work

Enhance the effectiveness of your whiteboard teaching with these tips. Keep your board organized and stick to your lesson aims. Consistent colors and scoring systems are a must, while phonemic scripts and tallies can help students better engage. Use post-it notes to capture learning and mystery prizes to motivate students. And don't forget slap sticks and Paul Millard's videos for some extra fun and learning.



by **Mohamed Ali Khalaf**



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15:38

Plan Your Board

Planning the layout of your board is crucial for a successful class. Sketch out your board on your lesson plan and visualize it as a finished piece. This is particularly useful for organizing language input. Stick your plan on the board for easy reference throughout the class.

Keep It Neat

Make sure whatever you write on the board is neat and legible. If something is unclear, erase and rewrite it. This will help students focus on the content and avoid confusion. Remember to strive for clarity and readability.

Use Color Consistently

What to Do

Choose different colors to distinguish between different types of information, such as grammar rules, vocabulary, and sentence structure. Use bold primary colors that are easily visible.

What to Avoid

Don't mix too many colors together, which can become visually confusing and overwhelming. Stick to a consistent color scheme throughout your lessons.

Teach New Vocabulary

Tip	Description
1	Use brackets and the word form symbol to teach new vocabulary.
2	Add a dot above the vowel in the stressed syllable to help students nail pronunciation.
3	Put important collocations on the board in a different color. Be creative!

Engage Students with Feedback

Target Language Tallies

Keep a tally of target language use on the board during a task to encourage students to use certain phrases on their own.

Post-It Notes

Create a "What I've Learned" section on the board with blank post-its for students to write down what they've learned. This also helps you assess the class and check for understanding.

Motivate with Mystery Prizes

Create a "Mystery Prize" on the board and write the prize (e.g. a new game, a sticker) on the back. Tell your students they can reveal the prize at the end of the class if they work hard and behave.

Add Fun with Slap Sticks

Slap sticks are a playful way to engage students in games and can also double as pointers for your IWB. They are ideal for visual and tactile learners and can add a fun dimension to your teaching.

Read Pete's Article

Find this great article [here](#).

Watch Paul's Tips

Find this great article [here](#).

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