

Getting Started with AFL in English Transcription: Video 1

Interviewees

Laura Kahwati Former English, Media and Drama teacher

Dika Kadek Cambridge trainer and English teacher

Tanya Valecha Cambridge principle, trainer and English teacher

Why is AFL important in English lessons?

Laura Kahwati

Assessment for learning is so important in English lessons because in order for students to succeed in English, they have to be creative writers, confident speakers, readers, they have to be literary critics and historians. It's such a multifaceted subject and so each time one of those skills is developed, it then helps another one of the skills to succeed.

Dika Kadek

Assessment for learning is like a GPS, if I can give you an analogy, it's like a GPS navigation which provides information about destination and direction on how to get to the destination. Well, in this example, in this analogy, the learning objective is the destination and the success criteria is the pointers and directions that inform students how to achieve the learning objective.

Tanya Valecha

When I look at assessment for learning, it allows me to break up a huge task into smaller parts. So it allows me to give a focus on a particular aspect and say, this is what I'm going to look for right now.

Dika Kadek

Assessment for learning aims to help learners make progress in their learning and this progress does not have to be massive and instant, but it should be steady and continuous.

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Tanya Valecha

It also allows the student to know exactly what is expected and how to reach it because when we are doing assessment for learning, it's only possible if I have laid out my success criteria very clearly, if my lesson objectives are very clear and because it's so visible to a learner, he's able to work strategically towards the task, identify where he didn't reach it with the task and thereby improve. So it informs my teaching practices to a large extent and it helps me evolve as a teacher, as well.

Laura Kahwati

And that's why it's really important that throughout the journey of developing all these different skills in English, we want to be able to check where students are and then how to move them forward.