

## USING THE CASE METHOD IN TEACHING ENGLISH TO ESL LEARNERS

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**Annotatsiya:** keys usuli faol o'rganish va tanqidiy fikrlashni rag'batlantiradigan ikkinchi til (ESL) sifatida ingliz tilini o'rgatishning innovatsion va qiziqarli yondashuvidir. O'quvchilarning tajribalari va qiziqishlariga mos keladigan real hayot stsensariylarini taqdim etish orqali bu usul talabalarni muammolarni birgalikda tahlil qilish, muhokama qilish va hal qilishga undaydi. Guruh ishi, muhokamalar va taqdimotlar orqali ESL o'quvchilari nutq, tinglash, o'qish va yozish qobiliyatlarini kuchaytirib, o'zlarining til ko'nikmalarini kontekstda rivojlantiradilar. Bundan tashqari, ushbu yondashuv madaniy va ijtimoiy muammolarni chuqurroq tushunishga yordam beradi va tilni o'zlashtirishni yanada mazmunli qiladi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** tanqidiy fikrlash, keys usuli, madaniy xabardorlik, guruh muhokamalari, pedagogik vosita, muammolarni hal qilish, faol o'rganish, ELS, muloqot qobiliyatlari, talabalarining faolligi, til ko'nikmalarini rivojlantirish.

**Аннотация:** Кейс-метод — это инновационный и увлекательный подход к преподаванию английского как второго языка (ESL), который поощряет активное обучение и критическое мышление. Представляя сценарии из реальной жизни, соответствующие опыту и интересам учащихся, этот метод побуждает учащихся вместе анализировать, обсуждать и решать проблемы. Посредством групповой работы, дискуссий и презентаций студенты ESL совершенствуют свои навыки разговорной речи, аудирования, чтения и письма, а также развивают свои языковые навыки в контексте. Кроме того, такой подход способствует более глубокому пониманию культурных и социальных проблем и делает изучение языка более значимым.

**Ключевые слова:** критическое мышление, кейс-метод, культурная осведомленность, групповые дискуссии, педагогический инструмент, решение проблем, активное обучение, ELS, коммуникативные навыки, вовлечение учащихся, развитие языковых навыков.

**Abstract:** the case method is an innovative and engaging approach to teaching English as a second language (ESL) that encourages active learning and critical thinking. By presenting real-life scenarios that match students' experiences and interests, this method encourages students to analyze, discuss, and solve problems together. Through group work, discussions, and presentations, ESL students strengthen their speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills and develop their language skills in context. In addition, this approach contributes to a deeper understanding of cultural and social issues and makes language acquisition more meaningful.

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**Key words:** *critical thinking, case method, cultural awareness, group discussions, pedagogical tool, problem solving, active learning, ELS, communication skills, student engagement, language skills development.*

In the conditions of the intensive development of science and technology and the intensification of globalization processes, determining the establishment of international contacts between countries, there is a high demand for in-depth study of English as a foreign language. Modern education system more and more requires methodology of teaching foreign languages, according to which teaching English should, first of all, contribute to form students' communication skills, broaden their horizons and independent search activities. However, it is important to develop aesthetic views, emotional and volitional self-regulation skills, and the ability to withstand stress to increase productivity of educational activities. Thus, one of the urgent tasks of the modern school is the search for innovative teaching methods to meet the requirements of society.

The case study is an interactive teaching method based on problem-situational analysis and students' solutions to specific learning situations. In the scientific world, the homeland of this teaching method is the United States of America, namely Harvard University. A characteristic feature of a case study is the creation of a problematic situation based on real facts from life, the description of which simultaneously reflects not only any practical side of the problem but also helps students to activate a certain set of previously acquired knowledge that they need to master in order to successfully solve the task. Moreover, the problem itself does not have an unambiguous solution. Also, the solutions to problem situations put forward by students can be assessed according to the following criteria:

- a scientific and theoretical level of case-assignment and presentation;
- completeness of the case solution;
- the degree of creativity and independence in the approach to the analysis of the case and its solution, as well as its degree of evidence and persuasiveness;
- the form of presentation of the material and the quality of the presentation;
- culture of speech, the use of gestures and facial expressions during communication processes;
- completeness and comprehensiveness of conclusions; the presence of their views on the problem regarding the implementation of case tasks.

The use of case technology in foreign language classes pursues the following goals, namely: improving communicative competence; linguistic competence; sociocultural competence. The modern method of teaching foreign language is focused on communicative learning, respectively, the case method can be used as one of the best approaches, since students can analyze certain communicative situations. This learning process analyzes the authentic use of the language, cases of phraseology and idioms, the mechanics of exchanging replicas, etc. everything that characterizes the level of fluency in the language in the conditions of modern communication. In fact, the case is the key



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category of this method. In this regard case is the events that happened in a certain field of activity and which the author described to provoke a discussion about a problem situation and thereby push students to critically evaluate and analyze the situation, and as a result to make their own unique decision. Thus, the main idea of the case study method is the assimilation of knowledge and the formation of skills through the active independent activity of students to resolve contradictions, as a result of which students acquire professional knowledge and develop certain skills and abilities. An English lesson based on case technology can be built according to the following concept:

- The first group of exercises are introductory exercises or starting up, the goal of which is to teach vocabulary, as well as the formation and development of speaking skills.
- The second group of exercises is designed to develop listening and writing skills, as well as to master new lexical units.
- The third group of reading exercises aims to develop reading skills, understanding the text in English, and mastering new lexical material on the lesson title.
- The fourth group of exercises allow to revise grammar.
- The fifth group of exercises is designed to research a problem or directly a case study.

The case study method provides a student with actual theoretical knowledge and practical experience and opportunities to consolidate the monologic and dialogical skills of reasoning thoughts, opinions, ideas, proposals. Carrying research, a student studies to take alternative points of view and to argue for his/her own decision of a break-through situation, to show and to improve analytical and assessment skills and teamwork. It should be noted that the use of the case study method requires a lot of time for the successful implementation of work on solving cases. However, the experience gained in the process of applying this method by teachers has shown that the case method greatly increases the effectiveness of the educational process since it allows to simulate the future activities of the learners and form a positive motivation for mastering a foreign language and obtaining new competences as social activity, communication skills, listening skills and the correct expression of thoughts.

The Case Method involves presenting students with a specific case or scenario requiring analysis, discussion, and problem-solving. This approach emphasizes student participation, collaboration, and the application of knowledge to real-world situations. In ESL contexts, cases can be drawn from various themes relevant to students' lives, such as immigration, workplace dynamics, or cultural traditions. Active learning: the Case Method shifts the focus from traditional teacher-led instruction to interactive learning. ESL students actively participate in discussions, fostering greater engagement and retention of language concepts. Critical thinking: analyzing cases encourages learners to think critically about issues, articulate their thoughts, and defend their opinions. This enhances their language proficiency while developing essential analytical skills. Real-life context: by working with realistic scenarios, students can practice their language skills in contexts they may encounter outside the classroom. This relevance makes learning more

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meaningful and applicable. Cultural awareness: cases often incorporate cultural elements, allowing students to learn about different perspectives and societal norms. This exposure helps ESL learners navigate diverse environments more effectively. Collaboration and communication: group discussions and peer collaboration are integral to the Case Method. Students learn to communicate more effectively, improving their speaking and listening skills as they share ideas and viewpoints with others. Language skills development: the case method supports the development of all four language skills—reading, writing, speaking, and listening—by requiring students to read case materials, write reflections, engage in discussions, and collaborate with peers. Select relevant cases: choose cases that resonate with the students' experiences or interests. This relevance motivates learners and sparks insightful discussions. Facilitate discussions: the instructor's role is to guide discussions, prompt deeper thinking, and ensure all voices are heard. Encouraging participation from all students can enhance learning outcomes. Use diverse materials: incorporate various resources such as videos, articles, and interviews. This diversity caters to different learning styles and provides multiple perspectives. Create a supportive environment: foster a classroom environment where students feel comfortable sharing their thoughts without fear of judgment. This psychological safety encourages active participation. Assessment and reflection: provide opportunities for students to reflect on their learning, both individually and as a group. Assess not just language proficiency but also critical thinking and engagement in discussions.

The Case Method offers a powerful approach to teaching English to ESL learners, combining language acquisition with practical skills essential for real-world interactions. By leveraging this method, educators can enhance engagement, foster critical thinking, and prepare students for effective communication in diverse contexts. As the world becomes more interconnected, these skills are crucial for success in any language-learning journey.



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