

# Maxims of Teaching in English

## Meaning

For the efficiency in teaching, the knowledge of the principles of teaching is essential. The educationist and psychologists have established some general rules on the basis of their experience. By the proper use of maxims, teaching can be made more effective and the students may be benefited. These general rules of teaching are called maxims of teaching. These maxims of teaching are much helpful to the teacher to guide how and when teaching work should be made. So that the students may acquire maximum knowledge. According to Raymont "Maxims of teaching illustrate the ways in which theory may be expected to help practice."

These maxims are used in English teaching to make the teaching more effective. The main maxims of teaching in English are as follows.

- From Known to Unknown
- From Simple to Complex
- From Concrete to Abstract
- From Whole to Part
- From Indefinite to Definite
- From Particular to General
- From Empirical to Rational
- From Analysis to Synthesis
- From Induction to Deduction

### **Form Known to Unknown**

The English teacher must know before starting his lesson, as to how much the students are known to the subject, what he is going to teach. New knowledge is imparted to the students on the basis of it and the students grasp the subject matter easily.

### **Form Simple to Complex**

Under this maxim, the subject matter is presented before the students from easy or simple to complex. The subject matter is arranged in such a manner that easy and simple lessons come first, then completely difficult or complex lessons. The use of this maxim in teaching helps the students to secure self confidence and their interest remain maintained in the lesson.

### **From Concrete to Abstract**

It's a general principle of learning, child learns concrete materials or thought first, and thereafter he learns abstract materials or thought. This is the basis of this maxim. Following this maxim teacher, teacher introduces concrete material to the students first after that he teaches about abstract material.

### **From Whole to Part**

This maxim is based on gestalt theory of psychology. According to it, child obtains the knowledge of whole, there after he learns about the parts. This maxim lies down that students should be taught about the entire fact first, later on they should be taught about the parts of it.

### **From Indefinite to Definite**

In the beginning the knowledge of child remains indefinite, he does not have any knowledge of rules of grammar of the language. What so ever knowledge of language he has, it is indefinite. The purpose of this maxim is to make definite knowledge to indefinite knowledge of students.

### **From to General Particular**

The purpose of this maxim is, that the students should be imparted knowledge of particular, later on they should taught about general. Teacher first of all puts instances of different sorts of facts and incidents. Later on the students are asked to derive conclusion, prior to it teacher explains all the main points. He gives different examples, analysis classifies. There after he makes efforts to derive rule.

### **From Empirical to Rational**

The child learns by trial and error, on basis of his learning experience acquired by himself. He has great quest for knowledge but being immature in experience he remains unable to understand many rules and principles, what so ever he acquires knowledge that is not accordance with the logic. The teacher therefore, can make the acquired knowledge from the student's experiences, logical and permanent.

### **From Analysis to Synthesis**

This is a very significant maxim of English Teaching. According to this maxim facts, rules and principles are analyzed first, there after synthesized. In the other words by analyzing any fact, principle and rule first the students acquire proper knowledge and by synthesis their acquired knowledge becomes confirmed.

### **From Induction to Deduction**

This maxim is very useful for both, students and teachers, because it helps the students in learning and understanding the subject matter while it provides an easy, interesting and effective way of teaching English. The teacher teaches the subject matter to the students through example, then he proceeds to the rules. Examples are put before the students and they are asked to derive the general rule or principle on the basis of analysis and classification. The knowledge of the students is not so developed at the initial stage that they may understand the facts by rule directly, for this purpose induction method is very useful where as deduction method is very useful for higher stage.