

## The Direct Method

(*Definition*): According to the Direct Method, *meaning* is to be *conveyed directly in the target language* through the use of demonstration and visual aids, *with no recourse to the students' native language*.

Q/ why did the Direct Method appear?

A/ It appeared as *a reaction against the Grammar-Translation Method* that was *not very effective in preparing students to use the target language communicatively*.

Q/ what is the *objective* of the Direct Method?

A/ *preparing students to use the target language communicatively*.

Q/ What is the basic rule of the Direct Method?

A/ *No translation is allowed*.

## The Principles of the Direct Method

1. **Reading**: the *reading* skill will be developed through practice with speaking. Language is *primarily speech*.
2. **Writing**: Writing is an important skill, to be developed from the beginning of language instruction.
3. **Pronunciation is emphasized**: Pronunciation should be worked on right from the beginning of language instruction.
4. **Culture**: Culture consists of more than the fine arts (e.g. the students study geography and the daily life). Learning another language also involves learning how speakers of that language live.
5. **Meaning**: Objects (e.g. realia or pictures) present in the immediate classroom environment should be used to help students understand the meaning.
6. **No native language**: The native language should not be used in the classroom.

7. The teacher should *demonstrate, not explain or translate*. It is desirable that students make *a direct association between the target language form and meaning*.
8. *Think in TL & no memorization*: Students should learn to think in the target language. *Vocabulary* is acquired more naturally if students *use it in full sentences rather than memorizing word lists*.
9. *Communication*: The purpose of language learning is communication
10. *Self-correction*: Self-correction facilitates language learning
11. *Conversational activity & encouragement*: Lessons should contain some conversational activity—some opportunity for students to use language in real contexts. Students should be encouraged to speak as much as possible.
12. *Inductive learning (from general to specific)*: Grammar should be taught inductively. There may never be an explicit grammar rule given.
13. *The syllabus*: The syllabus is based on situations or topics, not usually on linguistic structures.

### Reviewing Important questions on The Direct Method (DM)

#### 1) *What are the role of the teacher?*

- *Partner*: Although *the teacher directs the class activities*, the student role is less passive than in the Grammar-Translation Method. *The teacher and the students are more like partners* in the teaching/learning process.

#### 2) *What is the nature of student-teacher and student-student interaction?*

The initiation of the interaction goes both ways, from teacher to students and from students to teacher, although the latter is often teacher-directed. Students converse with one another as well.

#### 3) *What areas of language are emphasized?*

*Vocabulary* is emphasized over *grammar*.

#### 4) *What language skills are emphasized?*