

Rapport me up!

Building rapport in the classroom



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July 21st 2017

But what's rapport, after all?

“The problem is, whereas rapport is clearly important, it is also notoriously difficult to define or quantify”

(Jim Scrivener, 2005)

Lynne McTaggart stated that rapport is like tuning in to the right station with a radio.



According to Jeremy Harmer, there are 4 capacities that make up rapport:

- **Recognising students (names, too!)**
- **Listening to students**
- **Respecting students**
- **Being even-handed**

**Can rapport be developed?
Is it a trainable skill?**

**... Or you either have it
or don't have it. It can't
be taught.**



**Do you agree or disagree with
this statement?**

**Rapport is a fundamental
personality trait at which
some people are naturally
good, while others are not.**



Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

**Empathy, respect,
vulnerability and
authenticity are not always
intuitive.**

Situation 1

How can we build rapport?

Maria is in her late 20s and she has private classes twice a week at 9 pm. She is lively, motivated, and is learning English for several purposes: she wants to seize her trips and be more confident in using the language at work. However, due to work, she often misses classes and sometimes she'd like to make up for them.



Situation 2

Marcelo is in his mid-teens and studies English in a language school with 15 other friends. He's intelligent, but doesn't like to engage in activities because some of his peers bully him. His parents have recently gotten divorced.



Fundamental Attribution Error ... in ELT

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HR_q96-YRzk

This is a natural tendency to see the behaviour of others as being determined by their character – while excusing our own behavior based on circumstances.

What can we do to create rapport with our students?





1- Plan activities that get students to talk about what interests them. Be non-judgemental.



**2- Learn your students' names
as soon as possible.**



3. Set classroom rules by being clear and consistent about expectations.



**4- Show that you care
non-verbally as well (body
language works wonders).**



5- Respect your students and understand their diverse and different backgrounds. Don't jump to conclusions based on your frame of reference - grow empathy.



6- Really listen to your students. I mean it.



**7. Praise your students (not
only in front of the class).
Give clear, positive feedback.**



**8 - Be ready to get out of
your comfort zone. Show
your imperfections, be your
genuine self.**

“I’ve learned that people
will forget what you said,
people will forget what you did,
but people will never forget
how you made them feel.”

Maya Angelou
1928 - 2014





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Thank you!

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