

VIPKID TIP 1: INCIDENTAL LANGUAGE



Goal:

Make your language as simple as possible while still using grammatically correct English.

Examples:

- **Can you circle the Big A?** becomes: **Circle, Big A** while moving your finger in a circle, gesturing BIG with your hands, and then pointing to a flashcard of A
- **Repeat after me, I'm Fine** becomes: **"I'm Fine"** while placing your finger under your mouth to indicate what to repeat, and then placing your hand around your ear and waiting. If they do not speak. Do it again, exactly the same way. Do not add more words.
- **How are you doing today?** Becomes: **How are you?** During the "how are" shrug your shoulders and scratch your head in wonder, then point to them for you.

Planning:

Look at the demo or mock lesson you were provided. How can you use the most direct and simple language on every slide?

VIPKID TIP 2: USE HAND GESTURES



Goal:

Try to put a hand gesture or movement to **every single word** you say. If there is not an obvious gesture that conveys the meaning, still add a movement. This is because research shows that linking a movement with a word increases recall in second language learners. TPR = total physical response, and is a hallmark of teaching English as a Second Language.

Examples:

- Where is _____: put your hand over your eyebrows like you are searching for something. Then point to a flashcard or prop of the thing you want them to look for.
- Getting them to repeat a full sentence: "This is a_____". While I'm saying this phrase slowly, I clap my hands to the left for "this" clap my hands to the right for "is" then put both hands face up for "a". Then I point to a flashcard or prop or circle the item on the screen when filling in the blank. This is a really effective technique in getting them to repeat independently because you can cue them to do it by just doing the hand motions and mouthing the words. It works SO well.
- Circle _____: Use the strategy described above. Draw a circle in the air, then show a prop, or draw a circle in the air say the word (Circle the dog) and then model it on the screen.

Planning:

Look at the demo or mock lesson you were provided. How can you use the most direct and simple language on every slide?

VIPKID TIP 3: MODEL FOR STUDENT



Goal:

Gradual release of independence. Your interviewer will be acting like a complete beginner, not every student with VIPKID is. In fact, some of my students are very fluent and I use a more advanced level of the curriculum. But, if they stare at you with a blank face (like many beginners do) complete the slide as though you are the student. Then encourage them to do it.

Examples:

- **Use a puppet/stuffed animal:** Model a conversation with a puppet, then have the puppet turn to the student, and you model what they should repeat as the answer.
 - **In a series of tasks, do the first one.** Example, Matching big and small letters. **Say Match Big A, Small A.** I usually hold my fingers apart, then on the word match bring them together then act out big and small and point to my “A” flashcard. If they stare blankly. Then I repeat the exact same phrase but do the match on the screen for them. Usually at this point it clicks and the student can independently complete the slide.
 - **Correct incorrect answers and pronunciation through modeling:** Get excited that they spoke and responded then fix what they said by repeating it correctly with your finger under your mouth. Then cup your hand to your ear to get them to say it correctly too. For example:
 - T: “What’s your name”
 - S: “Tom”
 - T: *big smile and thumbs up, then with finger under mouth* “My name is Tom” *immediately cup hand to ear and gesture for them to say that.*
 - S: “My name is Tom”
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Planning:

Look at the demo or mock lesson you were provided. What are ways you can use modeling in your demo or mock lesson?

VIPKID TIP 4: PROPS



Goal:

There is nothing quite like a visual representation of key words. Some teachers are what I call “prop masters” and enjoy having a prop for everything. This is amazing. But don’t feel like you have to do this! I don’t. I use mostly the same props in every lesson, and if I think something will be particularly hard to convey, I grab an extra prop. In your demo lesson, create some flashcards and incorporate a few key props. If it feels like your personality then have as many as you want, but this is not a requirement

Examples:

- **My Puppets:** I have a set of animal puppets and I made a variety of 2-d popsicle stick puppets as well. I use these in almost every single lesson to model conversations, fluency and to encourage repeating if the student just isn’t getting it.
 - **A Paper Magnifying Glass:** I made this from cardstock and use it to indicate looking for something I want them to circle or identify. Or to talk about what they see on the slide. This can be especially helpful for absolute beginners because it allows me to eliminate the word “where” from what I’m saying (remember tip 1?). *All I do is put up my magnifying glass, shrug my shoulder and say what I want them to find.*
 - **Flashcards:** For key vocabulary, I usually draw the picture on an index card and write the word underneath. You can also print a photo and write the word, or purchase “first word” flashcard sets
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Planning:

Look at the demo or mock lesson you were provided. What props will enhance my lesson without distracting from the objective? On what slides will I use props?

VIPKID TIP 5: ENCOURAGE!



Goal:

Be positive, encourage the student and build their confidence. This is so important! Acknowledge every single thing they do well, and even celebrate the fact that they tried.

Examples:

- **High Five or Fist Bump the camera:** it'll feel cheesy at first, but the kids get such a kick out of it. I give high fives and fist bumps all class long.
- **Have a Simple Reward System:** Have something visual that they are working on throughout the class. I often use a giant smiley face and add teeth. Or I write their name in pretty writing and put stickers around it as they do well. I also do "drawing" rewards where I draw one part of a picture on my whiteboard and at the end they have a beautiful picture.
- **Use Encouraging Phrases with TPR:** Great job, beautiful speaking, I love how you did that, Awesome!, You did it! Etc. While this is technically incidental language, if you are saying it in an excited and upbeat way, it won't get lost in translation 😊 I actually find myself giving thumbs up to strangers and adults in my every day life because I do this during my lessons so much.

Planning:

How will you encourage the student? What reward system will you use? VIPKID will provide some suggestions for reward systems when you receive your demo. You can use this, or create your own.