

10 teaching ideas for SPaG

1

Wall of shame. Ask students to collect images of grammar / spelling / punctuation mistakes which have been professionally printed e.g. signs, company names etc. Display these in your room and invite students to explain the mistakes.

2

Correction. In pairs, ask students to write a paragraph and include 10 or 20 deliberate mistakes. The next pair should highlight those mistakes. Pass the highlighted paragraph to the next pair, who make the corrections and explain what the mistakes are and how they could be improved.

3

The importance of SPaG. A fun starter is to display sentences in which changing the punctuation changes the meaning e.g. 'Woman without her man is nothing' (Woman: without her, man is nothing). Students may enjoy finding their own examples.

4

Too many -ings. Students can be guilty of using too many -ing words in their writing. Encourage them to read through a piece of their own writing and replace all -ing words, thus creating a tighter, more controlled piece of writing.

5

Plural suffixes. Use mini whiteboards with the class to write the plural version of common words. Do they take 's', 'es' or 'ies'? A nice extension task for more able students is to get them to try and identify the spelling rule.

6

Internet games. There are numerous useful SPaG sites on the internet, many of which are targeted at EAL learners. Try:

- learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/
- bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/
- ucl.ac.uk/internet-grammar/

7

Speed highlighting. Stick sentences around the room or on the board, then call out a part of speech or a punctuation point. The first team/person to identify the feature wins that round. Continue until everything/ as much as possible has been identified.

8

Apostrophe drama. Divide students into teams before reading out a word with an apostrophe. Students then arrange their bodies into letter shapes, with the apostrophe in the right place. Students could also be given paper/ mini whiteboards to simply write the word.

9

Grammar dice. Use a [dice template](#) and fill in each side with word classes. Students throw the dice and write down an example of the term they've thrown. Once they've collected enough terms they make a full sentence.

10

Thesaurus against the clock. Write ten common adjectives on the board. Hold a competition to see who is quickest to find alternative word choices. You could also try 'most interesting' adjective, or try it without the thesaurus.