

GLOSSARY: Common Terms

Words in the articles that are both italicized and underlined are glossary items. These words can be found in alphabetical order below.

authentic

activities that show ways that language is actually used, including real-life interactions;
based on facts of actual language use

autonomy

when learners are able to engage in learning without much supervision or prompting

classroom expectations

what teachers think or hope will happen in the classroom; the behavior that teachers want to see

classroom management

ways that teachers can organize their classrooms and student interactions to keep students engaged, minimize distractions and improve learning

community building

classroom activities during which the students and teachers get to know each other better, improving trust and positive learning relationships

competence

the ability to do something well

consensus

having everyone in agreement

curriculum

the topics, goals, materials, and activities used by an educational program

de-motivating

something that decreases the willingness or eagerness to do something

deductive

using knowledge and information in order to understand something in a logical way such as learning the rules and then applying them

diverse

very different from each other

engagement

being involved with some activity in order to understand it

group work

working with other people to complete a task

heterogeneous

having different characteristics

homogeneous

having similar characteristics

inductive

making generalizations from specific information such as looking at examples and coming up with a possible rule

interdependence

a situation where people depend on each other to complete a task

intervention

being involved in something in order to change what happens such as confronting a disruptive student or stepping in to help a group in conflict



label

to use a word or phrase to describe someone or something, often unfairly or incorrectly, such as saying a student is quick or slow to learn, good or bad in class

learning objectives

brief statements that describe what students will be expected to learn or skills they will be able to demonstrate by the end of a lesson or unit

learning stations

different areas in a classroom that are set up with a variety of materials, media, and activities for students to practice what they are learning in lessons

outcome

the final result of a lesson, unit or project; what students are able to do after a lesson

performance-based assessment

a way to evaluate the skills and abilities of students when they are communicating in English

proficiency

a good standard of ability or skill

scaffolding

teaching in which students are introduced to and practice one skill at a time in order to reach higher levels

teaching up

teaching to the highest level a teacher thinks the students can achieve

