

Teaching Business English and ESP - First Lessons

First impressions count, in class as much as anywhere else, so I have drawn up a 'Wish list' of all the things the teachers in my school think would make a perfect initial impact with a Business English or ESP class. In the final columns, tick which items you have achieved in each of your first classes.

Wish list-The perfect first lesson would include (in no particular order)...

1) Students talking about themselves				
2) Students talking about their work/ studies				
3) Students getting to know each other				
4) Students getting to know the teacher				
5) Thorough needs analysis				
6) Response to student needs				
7) Thorough diagnostic testing- of all skills and language				
8) A mix of the four skills				
9) Pronunciation				
10) A mix of 'new' language and revision				
11) A mix of fluency and accuracy practice				
12) Error correction				
13) Functional language				
14) Something students can use the same/ next day				
15) Something written down for the students to take away				
16) An introduction to the teacher's/ school's methodology				
17) A confidence boost for the students				
18) An idea of where the course will go				
19) Development of microskills (e.g. listening for gist)				
20) Classroom language				
21) Learning something about how to study/ learn English				
22) Some motivation and guidance for students on self-study				
23) Development of cultural awareness				
24) Development of self-study skills (e.g. dictionary use)				
25) Homework				
26) Students learning something about their specialist subject				
27) Interesting topics/ texts				
28) Fun				