Outcomes Webinar Series For Ireland

Part 1
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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LEARNING | **CENGAGE Learning**

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Five Golden Rules

The Lexical Approach has been with us for over a decade now, but the ideas that inform it have been slow to trickle down into our classrooms. To counter this, I would like to suggest Five Golden Rules which I believe lead to better - and more lexical - teaching:

·   *Use Lexical Material:* This simply means using material which exposes your students to plenty of useful lexis. In General English terms, this necessitates a move towards a primarily spoken model. Collocations, fixed and semi-fixed expressions and grammar taught as lexis are the main concerns of the language syllabus.

·   *Foster Linguistic Awareness:* Encourage students to pay far greater attention to collocations, typical expressions and so on and to translate NOT single words, but rather whole chunks.

·   *Don't correct! Expand:* View student errors as an opportunity to start from where they are at and to explore usage and expressions just beyond their current level of competence. Rather than focus relentlessly on grammatical mistakes, accept the fact that many errors stem from a lack of suitable lexis and seize the opportunities for teaching that this presents.

·   *Explain, Exemplify and (get students to) Expand upon new language:* Rather than simply explaining the meanings of new words, move from this to then giving good, useful whole-sentence examples of how they might typically be used and, where appropriate, get your students to add extra examples.

·   *Personalise practice:* If students are to truly engage with English, they need the chance to use new language in a way that connects it to themselves. Encourage personal connections, anecdotes, views and sidetracks - and move away from sterile form-manipulation and endless testing.

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