

## **Tip #5 – Learn from your mistakes**

### **Importance of getting to know your students.**

A teacher is a coach a mentor and a facilitator. As a coach, a good teacher knows their students and provides invaluable, personal feedback on how to improve in a non-threatening, non-judgmental environment. As a mentor, a good teacher teaches by example – he or she models what they want their students to do. As a facilitator, a good teacher listens to what the students need/want and guides them on a path to achieve it by providing resources, encouragement and by helping them set their goals.

Knowing your students is the foundation for all other components of teaching. You cannot facilitate your students' growth if you don't know where they have been and where they are going. Getting to know your students, developing relationships is a slow process, requires patience, but it is essential – it really sets the foundation for success.

### **HOW TO HELP YOUR STUDENTS LEARN FROM THEIR MISTAKES**

We are not used to perceiving mistakes as something positive and this is exactly what needs to change. We need to nurture growth mindset by creating an environment in which making mistakes is part of daily routine.

**Emphasize that mistakes are good every chance you get.** Communicate clearly to your class that mistakes are good because we can learn from them. Mistakes inform instruction and help you guide your learning journey. In order to learn, grow and move forward students **MUST** make mistakes without feeling judged.

**Mistakes are all around us.** None of us is a finished product - we are all a work in progress. Create a culture that praises students for effort even if they made a mistake. Make a mistake on purpose and ask students to point it out and give you tips on how to learn from it.

**Famous people learned from mistakes.** Feature famous people and how they learned from their mistakes.

**Discuss peer mistakes.** Once you have a growth mindset classroom where students feel comfortable pointing out their own mistakes, you will be able to

slowly allow them to notice mistakes of others, with an intention of helping them learn.

After you create a safe, growth mindset environment where making mistakes is not something to be embarrassed about, you are ready to start learning from those mistakes, to use the knowledge of mistakes to guide your instruction and your students' growth.

- **Mistake trackers.** Ask students to keep track of their mistakes to raise awareness, so they can formulate their learning goals by focusing on specific areas of need.
- **Goal setting based on mistakes.** Use the mistake trackers to identify areas of need and incorporate them into your weekly goals.

### **How to learn from your mistakes when you are learning a language?**

1. **Make mistakes.** You cannot learn from your mistakes if you don't make them. Speak as much as you can – the more you speak the more mistakes you will make.
2. **Acknowledge them.**
3. **Keep track of your mistakes with corrections.**
4. **Create a list to help you analyze your areas of weakness.** The intention is to find ways to fix those mistakes and remember correct grammar and sentence structure, not to shame and judge.
5. **Ask to be corrected.** If you are afraid of being corrected by a native speaker you are talking to, set the stage from the very beginning. Tell a native speaker you are learning, and ask to be corrected. This way you are not being judged, but rather the person is doing what you asked them to do.