

Supporting Lecture and Reading Comprehension
for English Language Learners
(Helps everyone else too!)

Lectures

1. Be aware of your speed as you lecture. Slow down; break lectures into segments, provide summary activities or preview the next segment before moving on.
2. Be aware of your sentence length and vocabulary choices. Avoid off hand remarks and digressions unless they are clearly stated as such. Shorten sentence; repeat key words. Clarify the message!
3. Provide interactive visuals: gapped outlines, vocabulary lists, or a list of questions that will be answered in the lecture.
4. Use technology: Allow students to video / audio tape the lecture. If you want control of the content of recordings, you can record yourself to send out or post later. Lecture notes and PowerPoint presentations can be posted in Blackboard or on faculty websites. Use digital ink to take / save notes during lecture.

Reading

1. Familiarize students with the layout of the text and how to use key features: table of contents, index, glossary, etc. Show how the chapters are laid out and how the text highlights key points.
2. Provide graphic organizers for students to use as they read: outlines, charts, or questions to answer.
3. Refer to textbook in class: have students open the book to the relevant section as you lecture.