



English as a Medium of Instruction (EMI)
Module 1: Task 2—Read 5 Articles
Article 1.5: *Building Confidence to Teach in English*

You may be nervous to teach in English. That is very natural! Speaking or lecturing in public causes many people to be nervous in general, and teaching or lecturing in a second language is even more nerve-wracking. Some teachers worry that some students will actually have a higher spoken proficiency of English than they have. However, while being nervous about teaching your course in English is a normal concern, it is also one that is largely one that you can overcome. Remember that you are the content expert. So, with preparation and practice, your anxieties with teaching in English will diminish and your students will benefit from the strong content knowledge that you have to offer them.

Teacher Nervousness and Confidence when Teaching in English

As you prepare for teaching your EMI course, see the list below to build your confidence and overcome any nervousness you may feel.

1. **Be clear and concise:** Lecture with sentences that are clear and concise. You do not need to say the same thing several times. You do not need to use large or complicated sentences or vocabulary. If you find that students are having difficulties in understanding your accent in speaking English, first try slowing down your rate of speech. Also, be sure that you are using the correct word stress, particularly on terms from your content area. Check an online dictionary for pronunciation. Spend time every day reviewing and practicing with online materials and tools—several free and high-quality ones are available. Try recording yourself, listening for comprehensibility, practicing several times, and recording yourself again.
2. **Use audiovisuals to reinforce main points:** You can use PowerPoints or other slide programs, where you have listed main points. You can also prepare students for key terms at the beginning of the lecture or even before the lecture. You can show students graphs or even videos to help them understand points you are making.
3. **Use flipped learning:** You can record your lectures and ask students to watch those for homework. Then in class, you do problems, case studies, discussions, etc.
4. **Have students contribute:** You can ask students in groups or individually to present material or lead discussions. In this way, students are able to share what they care about and showcase their own learning. And if some of your students have an English proficiency that is more advanced, having students lead discussions or give presentations allows them to contribute in positive ways.
5. **Practice!** Speak your lectures and practice a few times before you present them for your students. If you find words that you need to practice more, then you can look them up in an



online dictionary. That way, you can practice pronunciation and speaking before your class starts. You can even practice in front of a mirror or video record yourself. Watch your video, and if you find things to revise, then you can try things out before teaching.

6. **Observe a colleague:** If you have a co-worker who is teaching an EMI course, you can observe them and take notes on strategies you can use in your own course. Similarly, when you start teaching a course in English, invite a colleague to visit your class and ask them to share any feedback on your clarity of delivery, activities, or student support, for example.
7. **Connect with your students:** Students learn better when they know their instructor cares about them and their learning. You can use your native language to connect with students, and also in English, be sure to show that you care about their learning. Students will be more willing to relax and speak English in class if they know they have a supportive instructor. They will also be more supportive of any mistakes you might make with your English, if they know you are all working toward a larger goal and care about each other.
8. **Reflect on your teaching:** Keep notes about lessons that work well and those that don't work so well. For those that don't, reflect on what you can change for next time so that students feel more engaged and can learn the most from the lesson.
9. **Create a professional network:** Find other teachers who are using English in their courses and create a support group. Discuss challenges and strategies and tips to facilitate success. Keep your sessions positive yet realistic. Share your successes!
10. **Take it easy!** Keep in mind that you don't have to be a "perfect" English speaker. If and when you make mistakes, remember that the focus of EMI teaching is the content and that you are helping students develop the skills they need for this competitive global market. So don't be too hard on yourself. Teaching always means reflecting, refining, and trying again. Try to relax and enjoy yourself.

Be sure to share any strategies with your colleagues so that you all can learn from each other!