

Twenty Key Instructional Tools and Techniques for Educating English Learners



Show, Tell, Build: Twenty Key Instructional Tools and Techniques for Educating English Learners by Joyce W. Nutta

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English learners (ELs) come to the classroom with a diverse range of linguistic and cultural backgrounds. They bring unique strengths and challenges, and it is important for educators to use instructional tools and techniques that meet their specific needs. This article presents a comprehensive list of twenty key instructional tools and techniques that educators can use to support the learning of ELs. These tools and techniques cover a range of areas, including language acquisition, comprehension, writing, and assessment.

Instructional Tools

1. Technology-enhanced language learning (TELL) tools

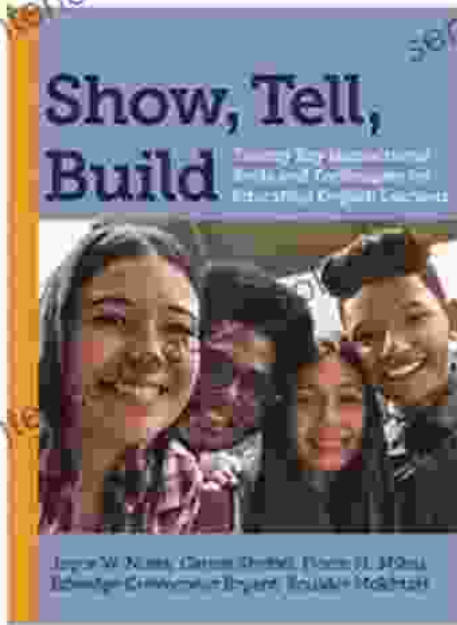
TELL tools offer a wide range of interactive and engaging activities that can help ELs improve their language skills. These tools can include online games, simulations, and video conferencing.



2. Language learning apps

Language learning apps are another great way for ELs to improve their skills outside of the classroom. These apps offer a variety of activities, including vocabulary building, grammar exercises, and conversation practice.

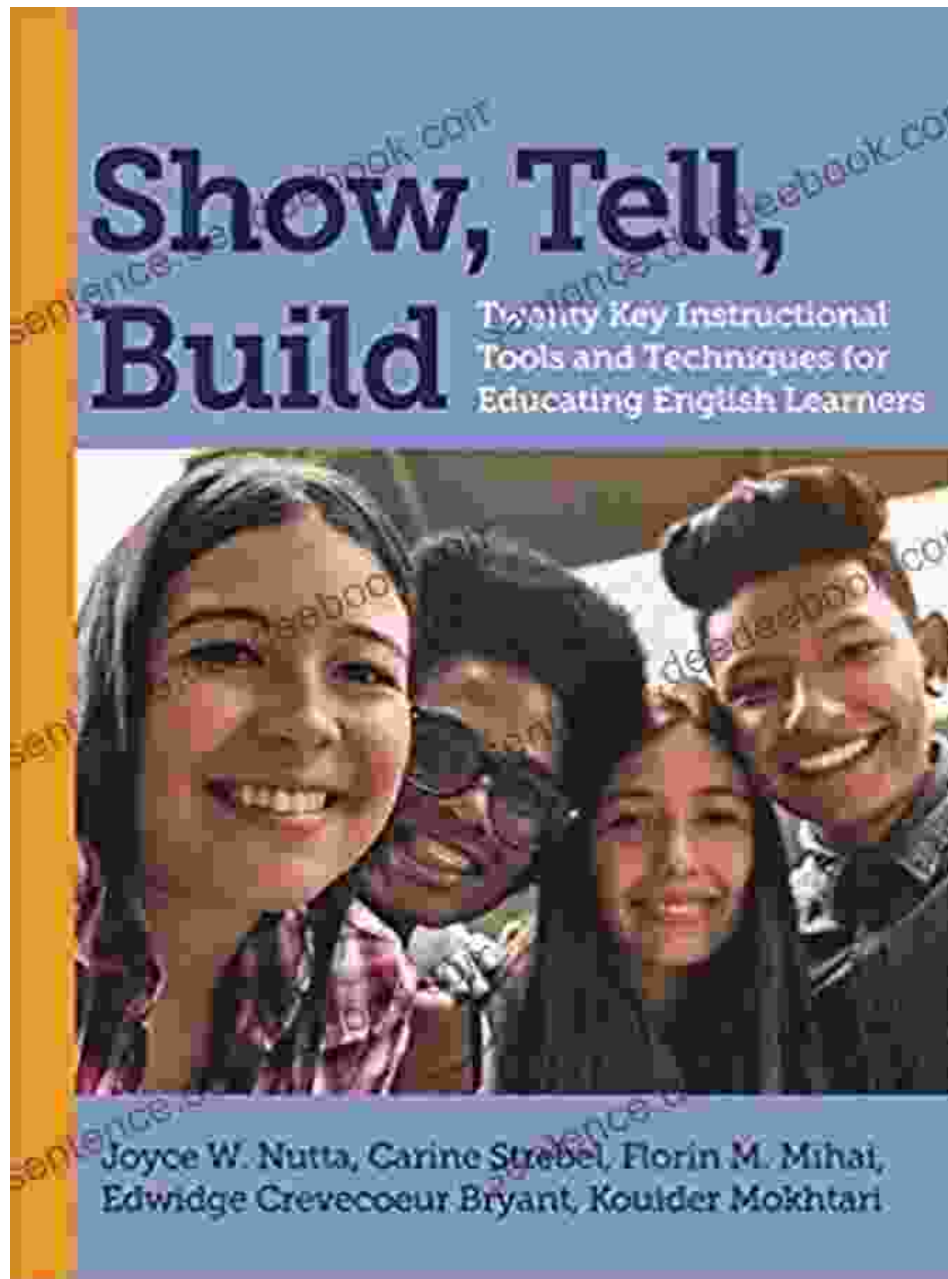
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3. Visual aids

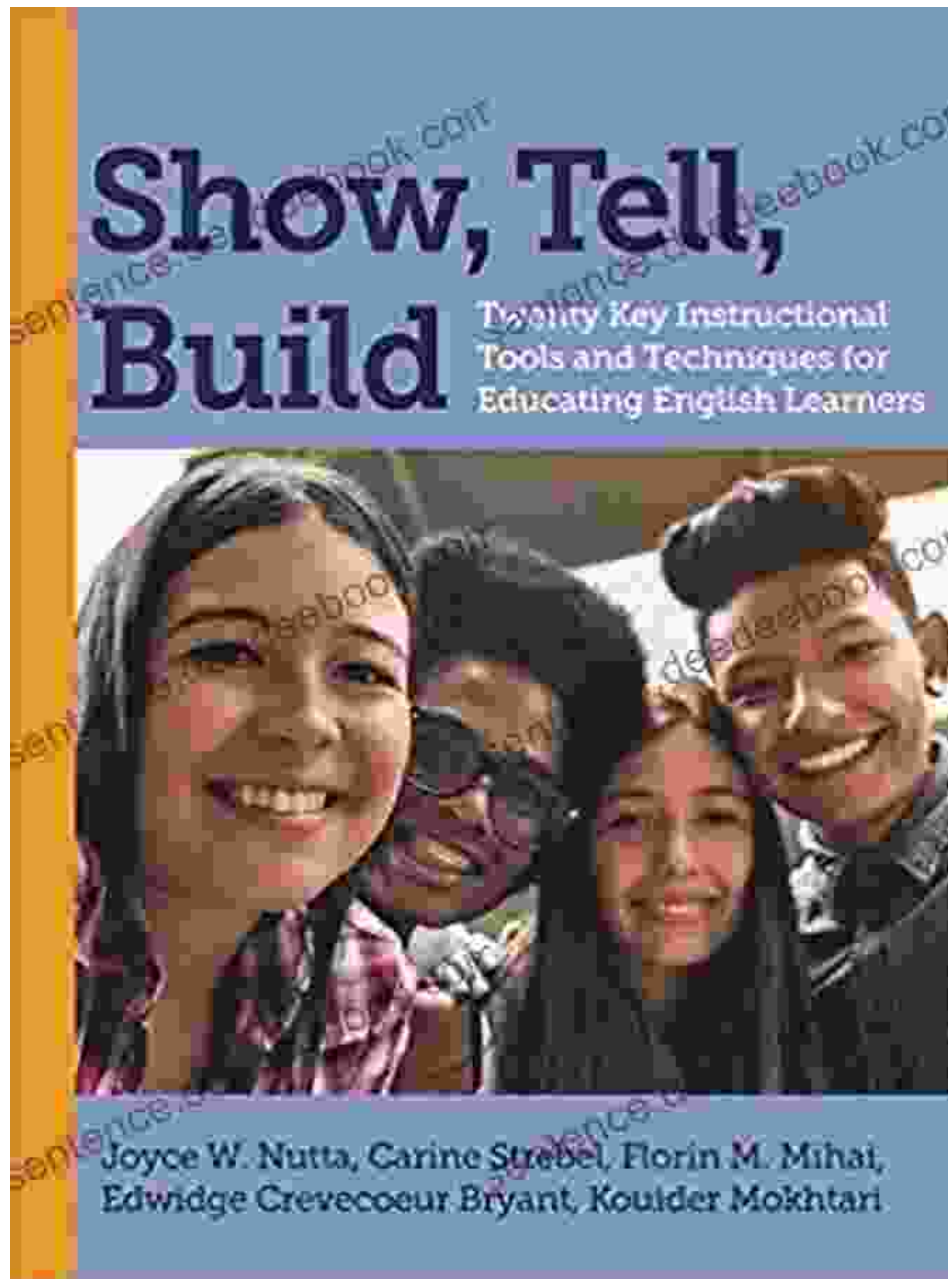
Visual aids, such as charts, graphs, and diagrams, can help ELs to understand new concepts and vocabulary. They can also help to make learning more engaging and accessible.



4. Realia

Realia are real objects that can be used to teach language and culture.

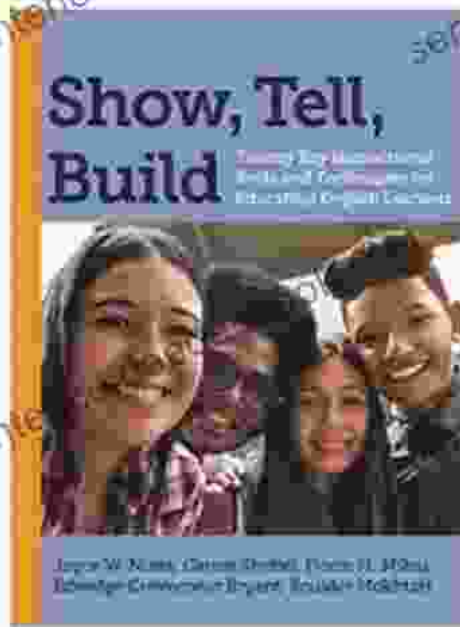
They can help ELs to connect with the language in a more meaningful way.



5. Task-based learning

Task-based learning is an approach to language teaching that focuses on using authentic tasks to help students learn. This can help ELs to develop the skills they need to communicate in real-world situations.

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Teaching Techniques

6. Explicit instruction

Explicit instruction is a teaching method that involves clearly and directly explaining new concepts and vocabulary to ELs. This can help them to understand the language more effectively.

7. Scaffolding

Scaffolding is a teaching technique that provides ELs with the support they need to complete tasks. This can involve providing them with scaffolding (such as a graphic organizer) or breaking down tasks into smaller, more manageable steps.

8. Differentiation

Differentiation is a teaching technique that involves tailoring instruction to the individual needs of ELs. This can involve adjusting the pace, content, and难度of instruction.

9. Cooperative learning

Cooperative learning is a teaching technique that involves having ELs work together in small groups. This can help them to develop their language skills and learn from each other.

10. Project-based learning

Project-based learning is a teaching technique that involves having ELs work on a project over an extended period of time. This can help them to develop their language skills and learn about new topics.

Comprehension Strategies

11. Read-alouds

Read-alouds are a great way to help ELs develop their listening and comprehension skills. They can also help to introduce them to new vocabulary and concepts.

12. Graphic organizers

Graphic organizers are visual representations of information that can help ELs to understand and remember new concepts. They can also help to make learning more engaging.

13. Summarizing

Summarizing is a comprehension strategy that involves restating the main ideas of a text in a shorter, more concise form. This can help ELs to understand and remember what they have read or heard.

14. Questioning

Questioning is a comprehension strategy that involves asking questions about a text to help students understand its meaning. This can help ELs to identify important information and make connections between different parts of the text.

15. Inferencing

Inferencing is a comprehension strategy that involves making inferences about a text based on the information that is provided. This can help ELs to understand the deeper meaning of a text and make connections to their own experiences.

Writing Strategies

16. Pre-writing

Pre-writing is a writing strategy that involves brainstorming

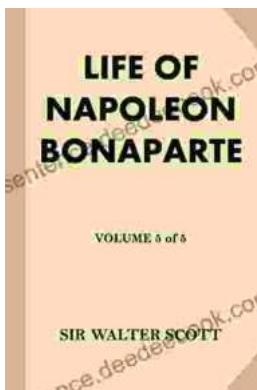
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