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Teaching The ESOL Fundamentals | Error Correction

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With error correction exercises, the key component is relevance to the learner. If it is not relevant, then you should question why you are doing it.

Using the written work of a particular learner, you can create a worksheet for them to correct.

Imagine a learner has produced the following piece of written work:

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MY DAY IN WORK

My day start very erly. I wakeup 5am and maked breakfast with white coffe. Quckle eat and jump to the car. Road to work that is 30 minuts and I'm in work.
Work start 6 AM from meeting. Team leader give as information about last day work, problems production and about plan today. Every now what douing so we go to machine. My position this is CNC operator break press 230 tons. I must working very carefuly and with every safety roules. Every parts I can do just one time corectly. So I have just one chance to do my job good. If not that is scrap. We have two break 30 minuts and finish work 2 PM.

That look grey reality my workday. But is many moments fantastic , fany and sometimes strainght. If is any special ocasion like chrismas we traing make more colors in this company. Organisation chrismas quiz . Bring to work sweets for this time.
Is many thinks what I dont like. Like many pipole dont care about clean and tidy workplace. Many times I must cleaning after somone. I hade this. This is not grandschool. We are adult.
In my opinion , in my company managers dont lessen sugestions workers. Maybe dont like changes. If that be possibole I want give proposition. One time in the year the best idea with change work style in my company be used one week. After this week managers taked decision. This change stay or not.
Describe

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From this work I have picked out the following general issues:

- Verb/Subject agreement
- Collocations, especially with prepositions
- Use of articles
- Use of personal pronouns
- Spelling
- Punctuation

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In addition, I have picked out the following specific sentences to work on:

- My day start very erly.
- Work start 6am from meeting.
- I waked up 5am and maked breakfast with white coffe.
- Quckle eat and jump to the car.

We could use these sentences to create an error correction handout.

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Just giving them to a learner like this might not be helpful in the first instance, so we can create some scaffolding:

Underline the error and say what it is:

- My day start very erly. (grammar, spelling)

Underline the error without saying what it is.

- My day start very erly.

Finally, once the learner is used to this form of work, you can give the sentences and state the number of errors.

- My day start very erly. (2)

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Running Dictation

A running dictation is good for practicing a specific grammar point. The following looks at homophones. The focus is on written accuracy, speed, error correction and fun.

- Learners are put into pairs.
- One writes, one runs.
- On a piece of paper on a wall at the other side of the classroom, write the following example sentences:
- Look at the two boys over there. They're very happy. Their friends are happy too.
- The learners then read the sentences and run over to their colleagues and dictate the sentences back to them. The winners are the first to finish with no mistakes.
- The writer needs to be able to ask the runner questions to ensure that the words used are the correct ones and that their answer has no mistakes.

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