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Teaching English As A Second Language: Help Others Learn And Grow

By Michelle Simmons

Who doesn't love the idea of travel? Who doesn't dream about a job that could take them anywhere in the world? If you're interested in teaching English as a second language, you've chosen one of the most popular careers for those with a true sense of adventure.

As with most careers, there are certain personalities that succeed at this job, and certain personalities that don't. A close look at native speaking English teachers overseas would likely result in seeing some common traits which all successful teachers seem to have. If you're not sure whether or not you could be successful at this job, check out the following list.

- Are you an independent worker? This not only applies to the classroom setting– it also applies to getting yourself over to your new country. Unless you fall in with a very helpful employer along the way, you will be negotiating travel plans and lining up job interviews entirely by yourself. Chances are good you'll land in the country with nothing but your luggage (if you're lucky). You must be self-reliant enough to figure out your own lodgings, food, and transportation– at least at the beginning.

- Do you have a love for other cultures? You'll have to be very tolerant and very open to change in order to teach English in another country. Keep in mind you won't just be visiting– you will be a working citizen of that country for the entire term of your contract. If you're absolutely attached to your SUV or you can't handle eating things you don't recognize, you're not going to adapt very well. If, on the other hand, you're the type of person who loves to travel and can't wait to immerse yourself in a world that's entirely different from your own, then you're in the perfect mindset for success.

- Are you a pre-planner? If you drive your friends crazy by having to over-plan everything, congratulations– you're the right personality type for teaching English as a second language. The number one problem people experience in this job path is ending up in a position that doesn't make them happy. You must be prepared to literally do hours of research about your school and your chosen position. Things aren't always as they seem at first blush, and if you don't take the time to dig deeper and plan for what's coming, you could find yourself in a very unlucky situation. Nobody likes to hate his job– particularly when it's thousands of miles away from home.

· Are you prepared to make a few big leaps? It might sound contradictory, but even with all the pre-planning, there will come a moment when you have to trust fate and just go for it. We're not saying to do anything rash. Please, check out your future position, fly to the country and interview in person if you feel it's necessary, and keep thousands of to-do lists. But when the moment actually comes to get on the plane, you'll have to have a certain amount of bravery. Those who can't handle jumping into the somewhat-unknown a few times aren't going to be able to handle this job.

If after all of this you're still determined to teach English as a second language, then you know what to do. Start researching and working your connections as soon as possible. And start preparing your family and friends for the fact that you're going to be gone. Write your landlord; find someone to take your pet cat. You're on the way!

Michelle Simmons is a contributing editor for ESLEmployment, the leading job and resource site for the English Teaching Industry. Interested in receiving hundreds of English Teaching jobs listings weekly for

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Teaching English To Non-English Speakers

By Yvonne Volante

Teaching the English language to a non english speaking person can be exciting and interesting. If this is of interest to you, consider traveling to other countries to teach.

It is generally preferred for the English teacher to be a native English speaker.

Here are some common terms you should familiarize yourself with:

Before you excitedly answer any employment ads you should learn the meaning of commonly used terms as well as recommendations for working locally or abroad.

TEFL: Teaching English Foreign Language; often refers to teaching English in a foreign country. Known to students as EFL classes.

TESL: Teaching English as a Second Language; usually refers to teaching English to foreigners in an English speaking country. Known to students as ESL classes.

Would you prefer to teach locally or abroad?

For people who wish to travel TEFL can be a great opportunity to interact with new cultures and to finance traveling. It is important to investigate the country you will be traveling to as well as the employer offering the position to ensure you will be safe and have reliable work. You may decide to

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work with an agency based in your home country that will assist you with legal questions and assist you in making living arrangements.

While many foreign positions are available to individuals without experience or certification you will likely find the education and resources of a class to be valuable before taking an assignment. If you think you would like to try this career out you might offer your services locally, as a private tutor, or take an instruction class to familiarize yourself with the responsibilities and work required to teach a language.

If you choose to work in your own country there will be various guidelines for certification, experience and materials as determined by the employers. If you consider private tutoring you can research recommended course materials and methods online or at a book store or library. You can then advertise your services in a local paper or on college and university billboards.

Teaching English can be very rewarding. However, English is a language that is full of rule breaking nuances. Trying to explain these to a student can be difficult and a person needs to have patience and good personal skills to become an effective teacher.

Do your research to be sure you are interested in the opportunities that there are. Teaching English to non-English speakers really is rewarding and profitable. And, you may get the chance to travel as a bonus!

Yvonne Volante, the author, is a big fan of language and writes for [aaalanguage.com](http://www.aaalanguage.com), which is the

premier language resource on the internet. You can see all of the articles over at

<http://www.aaalanguage.com>



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