Strengths

Students are usually quite engaged in the activities I prepare for them.

I think I have a good balance between individual work, pair work, group work and class work.

I do focus on all skills.

I try to connect things to real life, and we use real life materials, which I think students enjoy. It is not only about the topics, but also how they view the world and how they evolve as people.

I try to explain why we do things and why they think it might help them and how.

I try to do activities in a way that everybody is engaged.

I think I am able to organize activities quite logically.

I tried to assess formatively as well, but it is still in the process and I'm still learning.

Room for growth

Better planning.

Lack of system.

Problems with getting feedback after each lesson.

Sometimes I want to do way too much and too fast.

Not always clear goals.

Differentiation is sometimes a problem.

Getting deeper with some of the exercises.

Too fast.

Explaining things too fast. Sometimes not getting feedback whether students understood the activity.

Let the students be part of the planning process. Shifting the responsibility from the teacher towards the students.

I have been teaching for quite a long time and I have to say that I still haven't found the right path for myself where I could say: “This is it, I finally got it”. It might be a good thing as it forces me to constantly evolve and reflect on how I do things. I have to say that it is refreshing as well as exhausting at times. I have never stopped learning and I discuss teaching with some of my colleagues quite thoroughly which I believe is a good thing and even one of my strengths I would say.

What I like about my teaching is that I believe I make things interesting for the students and they are usually quite engaged in the activities I prepare for them. Even in high school, where students are usually not very happy about anything, they accepted the fact that they move around and do different activities with different people. I enjoy preparing new activities and trying them with my students. I have to be careful here though not to be overwhelming.

I think I can plan activities, so they follow one another well. I am also able to reorganize if I see that something is not working at the moment. I try to respond to the students even though it sometimes leads to a different activity than previously planned. I am creative and spontaneous, and I believe I can improvise quite well. On the other hand, sometimes that is a problem because even though I plan a lesson, it sometimes turns out to be completely different.

This brings me to the goals of my lessons where I definitely see room for growth. I have to admit that I do not always plan properly. I sometimes have problems defining the goal in a way that is clear and specific enough. I also do not always discuss the goals with the students. I usually see the bigger picture in my head, but it is hard for me to break it down to smaller pieces students could follow. I believe this can lead to confusion. I also have way too many things on my mind when it comes to different topics, and I have a tendency to fly away. I believe I have improved but it takes a lot of energy to stay “with my feet on the ground”.

I would also like to work on feedback. I definitely improved in encouraging students to give feedback to one another which I think works really well. What I need to do more is getting feedback from students and their understanding of activities we do. I have a tendency to be very fast and I noticed some students do not follow. Getting feedback at the end of the lessons is also a problem. I have not found a way to incorporate it on a regular basis. I still tend to do too much.

What I find to be one of my biggest strengths though is the fact that I really like my job and my students. I like to see them improve as students and as people. What I would like to do more though is to find a way to help them find their inner motivation for further studying English or anything at all. Most of the students lack motivation for school and knowledge in general.

I think I am well aware of my strengths and weaknesses and I do work on them. I believe I have made progress by trying to slow down and taking the time to write the things I need to become a better teacher {breaking down topics into smaller pieces, following a plan, doing less, slowing down, etc.}. All those things, however, are very difficult for me as they do not really fit my personality and the progress is definitely slower than I would have liked it. It is a process though and I am also learning to be kind to myself and accept the way I teach with both its positives and flaws.