

Feedback & Error-Correction Cheat Sheet

Five principles for feedback that builds confidence instead of silencing learners. From Post 14: How to Give Feedback That Actually Improves Student Speaking.

1. Timing Is Everything

Accuracy activities (drills, controlled practice): immediate feedback is expected.

Fluency activities (discussions, role plays): use delayed feedback — note errors, address at the end without naming names.

2. Be Selective

Correct now:

- Errors that block meaning
- Errors in today's target structure
- Repeated errors across lessons

Leave for later:

- Minor pronunciation slips
- Untaught structures
- Unconventional but clear vocabulary

3. Recast Rather Than Correct

Learner: "Yesterday I go to the market."

Teacher (recasting): "Oh, you went to the market! What did you buy?"

The error is corrected inside a natural response — no interruption, no anxiety.

4. Involve Learners in Their Own Feedback

Pause and give a questioning look before correcting. Try: 'Almost — can you try that sentence again?'
A self-corrected error is remembered far better than a teacher-corrected one.

5. Separate Feedback From Evaluation

Feedback = how to improve. Evaluation = how you performed against a standard. Give language feedback first — in most lessons, that's all that's needed.