

Clear Lectures for Multilingual Learners

Tip Sheet for Faculty

Multilingual Support Services (MSS) | camosunmss.opened.ca

Goal: Meet your students halfway by using clear speaking strategies.

(1) Clear Speaking

Student Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Inability to understand parts of lectures● Listening exhaustion● Unwillingness to ask for clarification
Instructor Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Slow down✓ Give students time to process✓ Recognize challenge of reduced forms (“woodja”) & intonation subtleties✓ Organize (previews, transitions, summaries, repeated patterns, varied activities)✓ Check understanding (anonymous posts, mini quizzes, pair/group reviews)✓ Avoid “Do you understand?” and ‘trap’ questions (“So you think...?”)

(2) Vocabulary & Grammar

Student Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Technical vocabulary● Idioms, phrasal verbs, slang/jargon● Complex grammar● Assumed cultural knowledge● Humour (especially irony & sarcasm)● Acronyms
Instructor Strategies	Vocabulary <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Monitor vocabulary level (pause to define/paraphrase essential words)✓ Use the same terms consistently✓ Compile “living” glossary with practice site(s)✓ Monitor cultural references (explain valuable ones – good teachable moments!)✓ Build in comprehension checks (anonymous posts, mini quizzes, pair/group reviews)✓ Avoid “Do you understand?” and ‘trap’ questions (So you think...?)

	<p>Grammar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Use active voice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Passive: “An issue that is being highlighted in this chapter is digital technology.” X ○ Active: “This chapter highlights digital technology.” ✓ ✓ Break long, complex sentences into simple short ones ✓ Stay in the hear and now (be wary of abstract structures) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “If one of you were to miss an appointment, that would inconvenience other members.” X ○ “Try not to miss meetings. It’s inconvenient for other members.” ✓ ✓ Front topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “For customer complains, there are three options.” ✓
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(3) Supplementing Clear Lectures

Instructor Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Replicate spoken information in other forms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use board/screen to write key items ○ Reduce text with visuals (graphs, infographics, diagrams, videos, etc.) ✓ Share materials on D2L ✓ Include skills learning in your course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Note-taking, classroom culture ✓ Record lectures and post on D2L
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In a nutshell,  clear lectures benefit ALL students:

- Be yourself! Your students enjoy your style. Recognize they’re also learning the language of the discipline from you.
- Control your pace and monitor your language.
- Don’t dumb down your lectures: use necessary terms but pause to define/explain them as necessary
- Be organized, vary activities, and replicate info in other forms (and D2L).