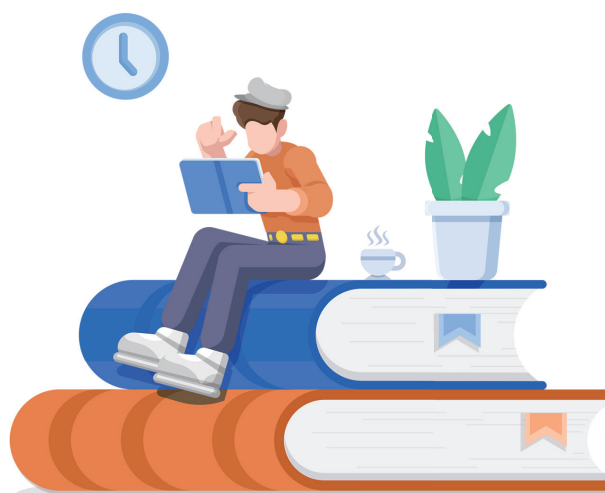


# My Teaching Experience

Jodie Leung



Learning is never easy; teaching is even more challenging. As a teacher, I truly feel that it is a herculean task to help students master a language and become useful members of society as many factors are affecting their learning and mindset.

My experience tells me that using a language is the best way to learn it well. So, I always advise my students to use English on a daily basis in order to achieve a good command of the language. However, despite being a tourist city that draws numerous visitors every year, Macau is not a place that provides

an authentic environment for the use of English, as the population is predominantly Cantonese and most of the tourists here are from mainland China. So, it is always a challenge for teachers to create more chances for their students to make use of what they have learnt.

To encourage our students to use English more frequently and fluently, change in the curriculum and evaluation method is a must. In the past, a lot of homework, tests and examinations could be quite mind-numbing and stressful especially for poorly motivated learners. Now, a multi-method approach is used

in place of exam-oriented learning. For instance, more class discussions are encouraged, which allows teachers and students to exchange ideas instantaneously and makes learning more interesting. Students also have to submit projects and give oral presentations instead of merely memorizing information. It is evident that many students enjoy doing research jointly, acquiring additional knowledge and strengthening their friendship during the process.

While the stress on students has slightly been alleviated, I personally find it increasingly difficult to be a good teacher, despite the availability of all kinds of high-tech teaching and learning aids. Students nowadays are much smarter and more independent. The teacher has to ponder more on what to teach and how to teach because every second in the classroom is precious. It is also anticipated that the role of the teacher will be severely challenged. In the past, the teacher passed on knowledge and instilled moral values while the students learnt obediently. Now, with advanced technology, students are exposed to tons of information and concepts every single day. So, it is imperative that the teacher make the lesson as interesting as possible to keep the students academically motivated. Fortunately, plenty of inspiring and thought-provoking teaching resourc-

es are accessible to help achieve effective teaching and learning.

Another challenge for teachers in this technological era is the responsibility to prevent the students from being influenced by some distorted ideas on the Internet, which is very difficult as they can access the virtual world with just a few taps on their mobile phones. In this regard, it is becoming more and more crucial to communicate with the students to understand them well and offer help if the need arises. It is also important to help them develop the ability to discern the truthfulness of the information they are exposed to.

As for myself, I realize that teaching has brought some changes in me. I have become more patient, tolerant, considerate, understanding and caring. Without a doubt, teaching is a career I take great pleasure in. I am truly glad that I chose to be a teacher because this enables me to reach many students and, hopefully, to have some positive influence on them. What's more, I am constantly pushed forward by all the challenges. Teaching is worth the time and effort because it is an opportunity for continuous learning. Above all, I enjoy sharing what I have learnt with my students and growing with them.