

# Effective correction of emergent language: why, when, what and how?

Here's a quick reference guide to dealing with learners' emergent language. For the full guide including practice exercises, grab the free presentation [here](#):

## *Definition of emergent language*

Emergent language is spontaneous, personal and unrehearsed language that comes up during interactions.

## *Effective correction*



right time  
right content  
right methods



## Three options...

### On-the-spot – Stop and teach – Feedback slot

#### *1. On-the-spot correction*

On-the-spot correction should be limited to times when students can respond and continue speaking, typically for higher levels and stronger students.

#### *2. Stop and teach*

This involves a brief interruption to deal with an error by boarding and drilling it to the whole class, emphasizing both content and form.

#### *3. Feedback slot*

This is a dedicated time slot for correcting students' errors, which is highly relevant language work.

## *Criteria for correction*

Corrections should be selective and based on class level, usefulness of the language and difficulty of the language.

## *The key to effective correction*

For corrections to be effective, learners must repeat the corrected version several times until they approximate the correct form.



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