

Xxi Century Skills in Teaching English

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ABSTRACT

Technology is changing our world. Routine knowledge and skills are being automated, digitized, and outsourced. Universities, governments, and businesses from around the world have worked together to understand the skills that students will need to succeed in the 21st century. Students today have access to so many different technologies and so much information. It's important to teach them how to make the most of it. Learning how to work effectively and respectfully with other people is an important life skill. Collaborative activities are also excellent for English language learners because they encourage speaking and listening skills.

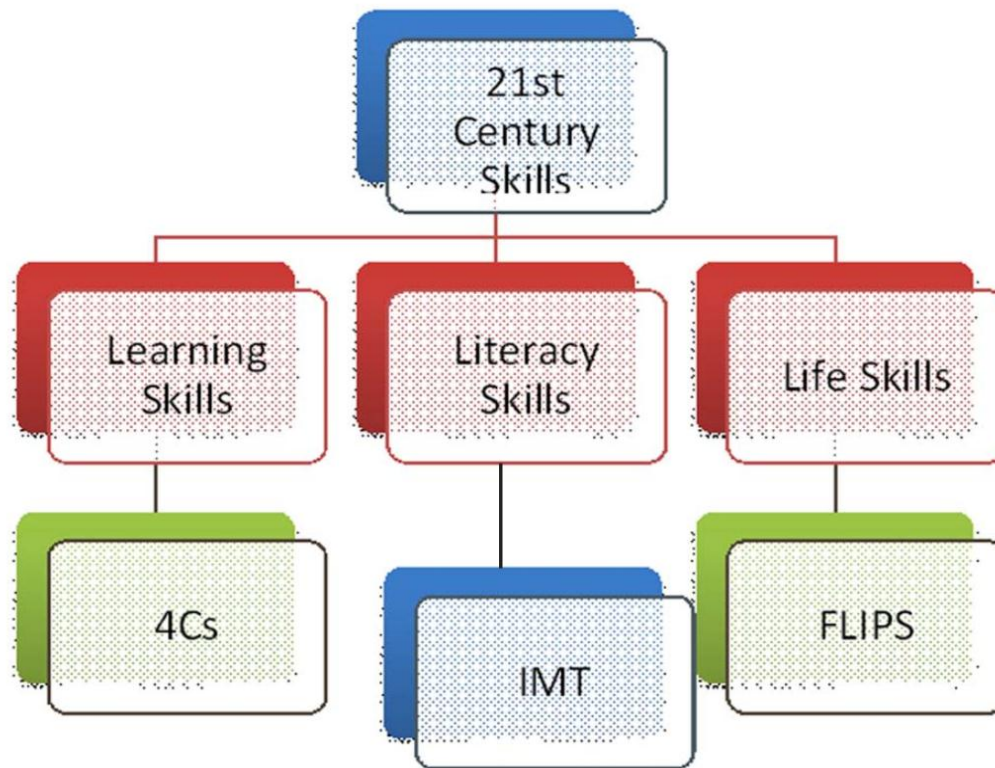
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The teaching of English as a foreign language has changed very significantly over the years. Having abilities that are up to date with the times is crucial in the fast-paced, constantly-evolving world of today. These competencies, also referred to as "21st-century skills," are a group of aptitudes that allow people to prosper in the contemporary environment. Contemplating Skills are mental processes that help us with problem-solving, decision-making, questioning, planning, organizing, and information creation. The skills of the twenty-first century are those that reflect and characterize previous professional abilities that are currently considered outdated because of the speed at which technology is developing¹. Teachers of English as a Foreign Language impart knowledge beyond only English language skills. Along with learning English, our EFL students pick up a variety of new skills in these classes. 21st-century skills are one type of these abilities. To thrive in the modern workplace, 21st-century abilities are seen to be the most crucial. Since critical thinking is the most fundamental skill that enables people and communities to tackle a wide range of problems, it is crucial in the twenty-first century. These might have to do with school, the workplace, or even personal matters. People who are capable of critical thinking navigate life more astutely and productively. Since critical thinking enables students to discern the veracity of claims, particularly when it comes to differentiating fact from opinion, we believe it is crucial for educators and learners in the twenty-first century. Students who use critical thinking skills learn more than simply facts and numbers. The Glossary of Education defines 21st Century Skills¹ as follows: ²"The term 21st century skills refers to a broad set of knowledge, skills, work habits, and character traits that are believed— by educators, school reformers, college professors, employers, and others—to be critically important to success in today's world." Critical thinking will enable you to better express your thoughts, ideas, and beliefs. Better communication helps others to understand you better, resulting in less frustration for both of you. Critical thinking fosters creativity and out-of-the-box thinking that can be applied to any area of your life. We'll take a look at what's included in 21st Century skills, how they help students, and why they're so important. To start, let's dive into the three categories that 21st-century skills fall into. Each 21st Century skill is broken into one of three categories.³

¹ Kereluik and associates (2013);

² <https://www.edglossary.org/21st-century-skills/> accessed on 13.03.2020.

³ Central board of secondary education, Delhi. 21st 18 Century Skills : A Handbook. May. 2020.



An easy way to understand and remember the classification is the 4Cs: Critical Thinking, Creativity and innovation, Collaboration, and Communication.

- IMT: Information Literacy, Media Literacy, Technology Literacy.
- FLIPS: Flexibility and Adaptability, Leadership and Responsibility, Initiative and Self-Direction, Social and Cross-Cultural Interaction.

1. **Learning skills (the four C's)** teach students about the mental processes required to adapt and improve upon a modern work environment.
2. **Literacy skills (IMT)** focuses on how students can discern facts, publishing outlets, and the technology behind them. There's a strong focus on determining trustworthy sources and factual information to separate it from the misinformation that floods the Internet.
3. **Life skills (FLIPS)** take a look at intangible elements of a student's everyday life. These intangibles focus on both personal and professional qualities.

Altogether, these categories cover all 12 21st Century skills that contribute to a student's future career.

Category 1. Learning Skills (The Four C's). The 4 C's of 21st Century Skills are:

Critical thinking: Finding solutions to problems.

Creativity: Thinking outside the box.

Collaboration: Working with others.

Communication: Talking to others.

Critical thinking is about having logical reasons and evidence for your conclusions. It is an important skill in academic subjects and for everyday decision-making.

We often focus on analytical, logical thinking. However, imaginative and creative thinking – the process of playing with ideas and being open to new possibilities – has been just as important in the history of human development and achievement.

Learning how to work effectively and respectfully with other people is an important life skill. Collaborative activities are also excellent for English language learners because they encourage speaking and listening skills.

Communication is the most important ability that learners need to develop in their language-learning process. The ultimate goal of teaching and learning a language is for students to be able to communicate.

Category 2. Literacy Skills (IMT- Information Management Technology). Literacy skills are the next category of 21st Century skills. They're sometimes called IMT skills, and they're each concerned with a different element in digital comprehension.

The three 21st Century literacy skills are:

Information literacy: Understanding facts, figures, statistics, and data

Media literacy: Understanding the methods and outlets in which information is published

Technology literacy: Understanding the machines that make the Information Age possible

One essential skill is information literacy. It aids the students in comprehending information that they may come across online, particularly data points. Above all, it teaches students to distinguish between reality and fantasy. In an era of constant information, searching the web for the truth has become a full-time job. Students must be able to recognize honesty on their own. If not, people may become victims of falsehoods, misunderstandings, and myths.

The ability to recognize publication techniques, channels, and sources and to discern between reliable and unreliable sources is known as **media literacy**. Media literacy, like the preceding skill, aids in locating the truth in an information-rich world. This is how students locate reliable information sources in their daily lives. Without it, anything that appears plausible gains credibility. However, it enables them to discover which media platforms or channels to disregard. Just as crucially, they discover which ones to accept.

Finally, by teaching students about the machines used in the Information Age, **technological literacy** takes education a step further. More individuals must comprehend the principles of computers, cloud computing, and mobile devices as they grow increasingly significant in today's environment. The fundamental knowledge required to comprehend which devices are used for what purposes and why is provided to pupils who are tech literate. The sensation of intimidation that technology often evokes is eliminated by this awareness. In the end, technology may as well be magic if you don't grasp how it functions. The powerful instruments that govern today's world are revealed through digital literacy, nevertheless. As a result, students can adapt to the world more effectively. They can play an important role in its evolution. They might even guide its future. But to truly round out a student's 21st Century skills, they need to learn from a third category.

Category 3. Life Skills (FLIPS). Life skills are the final category. Also called FLIPS, these skills all pertain to someone's personal life, but they also bleed into professional settings.

The five 21st Century life skills are Flexibility: Deviating from plans as needed. **Flexibility is the expression of someone's ability to adapt to changing circumstances.** One of the biggest gifts we can give children is to teach them to be flexible. Flexibility is the capacity to adjust to novel circumstances, improvise, and employ a variety of techniques to get over obstacles. For educators, adaptability in the classroom is essential. In the classroom, flexible teachers are more effective. It enables them to accommodate their pupils' requirements, be receptive to fresh perspectives, and adjust as necessary.

Teachers must be willing to relinquish some control and let their students take the initiative to be flexible. There are various methods to be adaptable, but the most effective strategy is to customize your teaching to each learner.

Leadership: Motivating a team to accomplish a goal. Teaching students leadership skills can increase their drive to attempt new things and work hard to achieve goals by boosting their self-esteem. Additionally, they'll fortify their sense of self and control. They will get the ability to identify and express their demands. What part does leadership play in the teaching profession? For first-year and early-career teachers, teacher leaders frequently serve as mentors and role models, offering much-needed support, direction, and counsel. By doing this, they win people over and cultivate empathy, which helps them create welcoming and safe learning environments for both students and other instructors.

We might conclude by saying that the significance of 21st-century skills cannot be emphasized enough. To succeed in both their personal and professional lives in our fast-paced, increasingly globalized world, people need to possess these talents. 21st-century skills emphasize practical application and real-world problem-solving, in contrast to conventional skills, which emphasize memorization and rote learning. The goal of these abilities is to enable pupils to stay up with the quick-paced nature of today's contemporary marketplaces. While how each ability benefits pupils are distinct, they are all shared by one attribute. These skills are intended to help students keep up with the lightning pace of today's modern markets. Each skill is unique in how it helps students, but they all have one quality in common. These skills help students learn, and so they are vital to success in school and beyond. Critical thinking is focused, careful analysis of something to better understand it.

Used literatures:

1. Kereluik et al.,2013; Mahmud andWong,2022.
2. <https://www.edglossary.org/21st-century-skills/> accessed on 13.03.2020.
3. Central board of secondary education, Delhi. 21st 18 Century Skills: A Handbook.May.2020.