

Your Ultimate Checklist for Choosing the Right English Teacher or Coach



by Dr. Yohann Brulley

Use the following checklist during your email exchanges and phone/zoom calls with potential teachers and coaches.

Teacher's name:

1. Understands Your Child's Needs

- Do they ask about your child's specific goals (e.g., exams, travel, or confidence)?
- Are they interested in understanding your child's challenges and interests?

2. Adapts Lessons to Your Child

- Do they tailor lessons to match your child's learning style (e.g., visual, auditory, or hands-on)?
- Are they flexible with topics and methods if something isn't working?

3. Encourages Confidence

- Do they create a safe space for mistakes and learning?
- Do they celebrate progress and motivate your child to keep going?

4. Demonstrates Expertise in English

- Can they explain grammar, pronunciation, and idioms clearly?
- Do they answer complex questions with confidence and depth?

5. Prioritizes Communication Over Perfection

- Do they emphasize speaking and listening skills over strict grammar?
- Do they encourage real-world conversation practice?

6. Shares Cultural Insights

- Do they incorporate cultural norms and habits into lessons?
- Have they lived in or studied in English-speaking countries?

7. Offers Consistency and Reliability

- Are they organized and punctual with lessons?
- Do they provide clear plans and regular updates on progress?

8. Involves Your Child in the Process

- Do they ask for feedback and adjust lessons based on your child's input?
- Do they encourage your child to take responsibility for their learning?

9. Focuses on Pronunciation

- Do they use specific techniques (e.g., minimal pairs or shadowing) to improve clarity?
- Can they teach pronunciation tools like the phonetic chart?

10. Inspires Confidence and Excitement

- Does your child feel more confident and motivated after each session?
- Are they excited to continue learning and practicing English?

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