

# Co-teaching: Training the Next Generation of English Language Teachers

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## Why Co-teach to Train?

Co-teaching has long been practiced in educational environments in order to facilitate professional development between two teachers regardless of their past experience. Many can agree that co-teaching is a great idea, but they may also question if it is affordable. Co-teaching should instead be viewed as a practical investment to ensure that new teachers will be effective in order to improve learning outcomes. This teacher-training program would be a transitional period until the new teacher is equipped enough to take on his or her own classrooms. Simply put, co-teaching is an opportunity for two teachers to share responsibilities and knowledge. As long as both are open and willing to the exchange it will be a fruitful experience on many levels.

## Benefits of Co-teaching

- **Gives new teachers quality practice** to gain exposure in the classroom beyond a practicum
- **Boosts new teachers' confidence** to succeed and be more effective
- **Opportunities to exchange ideas between a newly graduated teacher** (who possesses a fresh methodological perspective) **with an experienced teacher**
- **A practical investment** to ensure for better learning outcomes in the future
- **Student:teacher ratio** is improved causing increased student-teacher interaction
- **Teachers can offer more support** to students, creating an **engaging environment** while **decreasing behavioral problems** amongst Ss
- **Increases job satisfaction** for teachers

## 5 Strategies for Co-teaching

### 1. One Teach, One Support

#### A. Application:

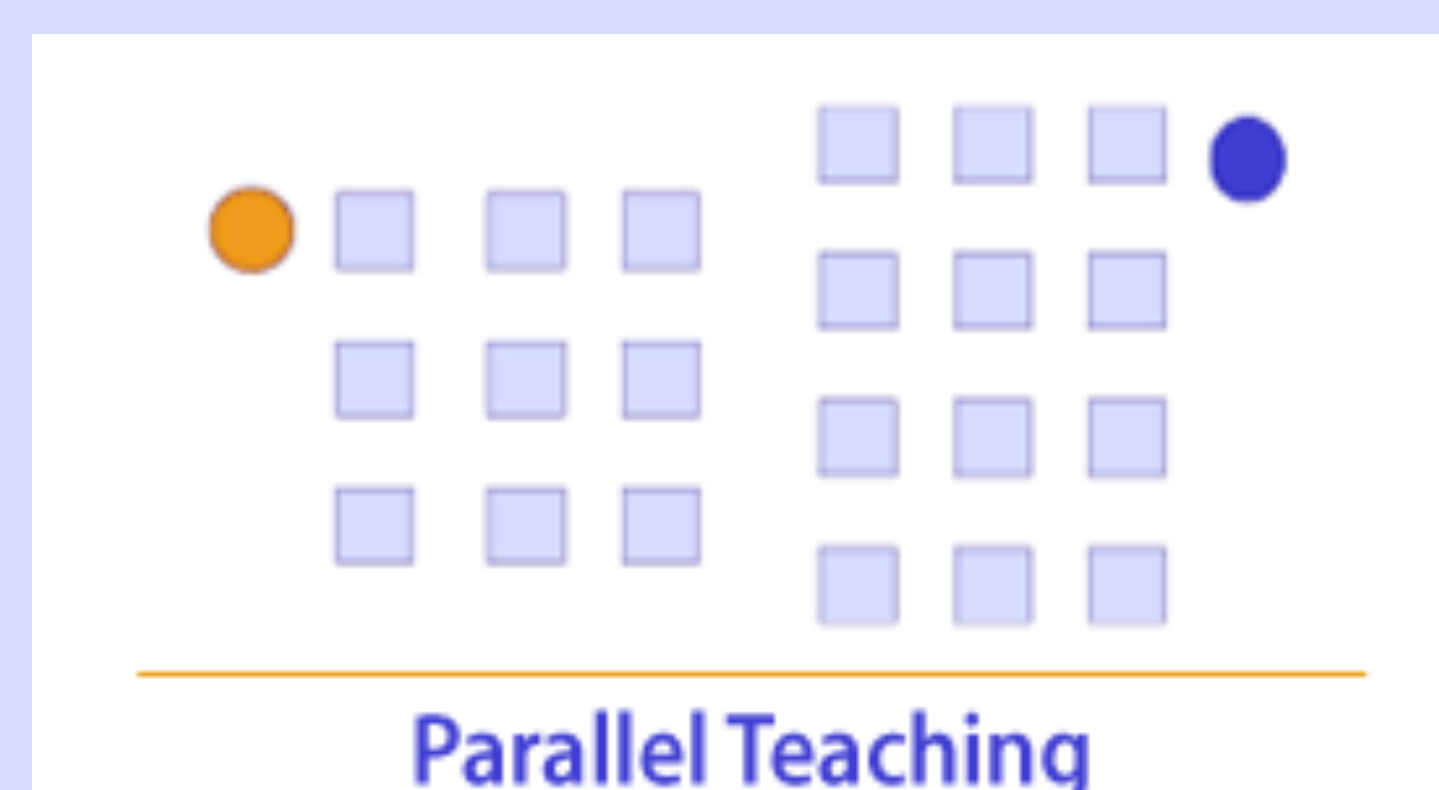
ET is responsible for modeling lesson delivery. NT observes while serving as an aid and offering Ss help when needed.

#### B. Advantages:

- + NT can anticipate the needs of the modeling teacher (distribute materials, etc.)
- + NT can observe good teaching habits and see theory in practice
- + Ss are more likely to stay on task because they are closely monitored

#### C. Disadvantages

- Ss will likely view the ET as the dominant teacher and the NT as an aid
- NT may disturb class pace as he or she circulates the room
- Ss may come to depend on one-on-one assistance



### 2. Parallel Teaching

#### A. Application:

While planning, teachers carefully coordinate timing of each phase of the lesson. Split Ss into two groups—ET leads one group while NT leads the other, each with the exact same lesson (content and materials).

#### B. Advantages:

- + Ss can be placed in small groups for more communication and interaction
- + Teachers can anticipate behavior problems and split up Ss
- + Ss view teachers as having equal control

#### C. Disadvantages

- Teachers may not equally be as knowledgeable about lesson topic
- Timing of the two groups may not coordinate smoothly



### 3. Alternative Teaching

#### A. Application:

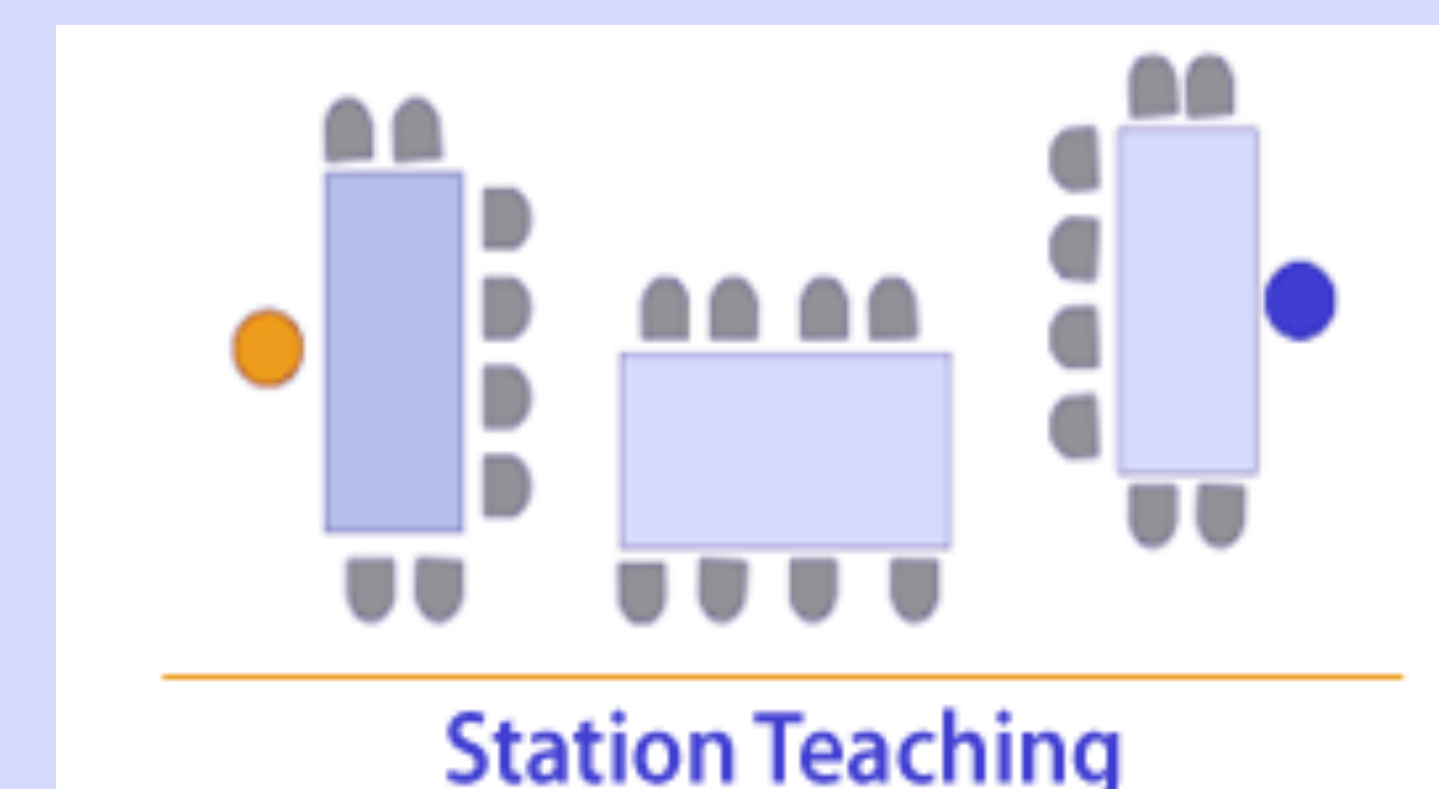
ET leads the main group of students while NT works with a smaller group of students in a separate area on different content/tasks. NT can offer remediation or enrichment activities for the separated group.

#### B. Advantages:

- + Teachers can support both advanced and struggling learners
- + Ss' individual learning needs are considered

#### C. Disadvantages

- Ss may come to label separated groups negatively or positively (e.g., the "smart" group)
- Ss receiving remediation may miss important new material when separated



### 4. Station Teaching

#### A. Application:

Teachers organize stations with hands on activities for students to apply knowledge from the lesson. ET and NT each take on one station (planning and teaching separate material) while the remaining stations are student lead.

#### B. Advantages:

- + Teachers can divide the students into small groups
- + Discipline problems disappear due to the engaging stations

#### C. Disadvantages

- Requires significant preplanning and preparation
- Stations should take the same amount of time

### 5. Team Teaching

#### A. Application:

Teachers share all responsibilities—planning, preparing, instructing. ET and NT should not lecture but invite Ss to openly converse, like a natural conversation.

#### B. Advantages:

- + Ss view teachers as equally in control
- + Lesson is more conversational
- + A comfortable environment for participation is easily attained and maintained

#### C. Disadvantages

- ET and NT need to both have a comparable knowledge of the content and topics



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