

## Learner Autonomy - Encouraging Learner Autonomy

These five ways come from a study by Borg and Al-Busaidi (2013):

1. Talking to students about autonomy and its value	2. Encouraging learners to engage in autonomous behaviours	3. Getting learners to reflect on their learning	4. Using activities in class which promote autonomy	5. Setting activities out of class which promote autonomy
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In the same study, Borg and Al-Busaidi also recorded 20 teacher practices as examples. They are listed below. Can you match each of the 20 practices to the five ways of promoting learner autonomy above?



A. Going to the library, doing Moodle assignments are part of learning that develops autonomy.

B. Co-operative and peer learning is promoted wherever possible.

C. Encouraging students to go the extra mile and not be afraid to make mistakes, helps give them the confidence to work by themselves.

D. Encouraging them to be more responsible about what they do in class.

E. I actively promote learner autonomy in my lessons using worksheets.

F. I ask students to tell me the mark they hope to get in their presentations and how they can get that mark.

G. I ask them to find out about certain topics and be ready to discuss them in the next lesson.

H. I constantly give homework and tasks to be completed and brought back to the classroom.

I. I do my best to involve my students in reflection into their individual learning preferences and strategies.

J. I encourage them to further their learning of English in situations outside the classroom without help from any teacher.

K. I have the class choose which activities they want to do in some cases.

L. I negotiate with students on deadlines for homework, topics for speaking as well as readers (if they don't like the reader assigned).

M. I spend quite a lot of time with my students explaining the benefits and the different ways of developing autonomy.

N. I talk to them regularly about why we are doing what we are doing and the bigger picture.

O. I tell them that knowledge is always available around you, but all that you need are the incentive and the method to find it.

P. I try to promote it by not answering the questions they have sometimes and by telling them to go find the answer themselves.

Q. I usually encourage them to visit the library and practice different tasks on extensive reading.

R. Independent learning projects in the courses I have taught are good examples of promoting learners autonomy.

S. Peer assessments of students' work at classroom level is encouraged.

T. Sometimes I ask students to tell me what they have learned, what they have found, easy, difficult, and what they should do to improve.