

Language **UNLEASHED**

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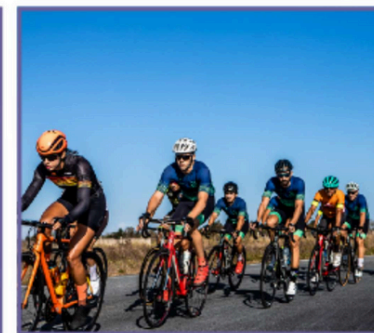
Steps to teach correct use of irregular plurals

1. Show your learner the first picture and prompt "These are (teeth)"
2. Place the picture face down so your learner can no longer see it, then ask "What did you see, you saw.... (teeth)"
3. If your learner does not know the answer or provides an incorrect response (e.g. "tooths"), tell the learner the answer (e.g. "teeth. Many TEETH"). Ask the learner to repeat this. Praise the learner and provide a "small" reward (e.g. a thumbs-up).
4. Go through the procedure again with the same noun, from step 1, until your learner can spontaneously give the correct answer at step 2. Praise and provide a BIG reward (e.g. a cheer and a high five). Always provide a bigger reward (e.g. a thumbs-up).
5. When your learner can reliably respond for the first noun, move on to the second noun and go through the whole procedure again.
6. Once your learner is reliably responding correctly to the 2nd noun, introduce the first one again. It is possible that they will have forgotten this one, so practise it again until it is reliable again. Then practise the 2nd noun again. Keep going until both nouns can be presented randomly and your learner can correctly respond using the irregular plural form of the noun.
7. Then add a third noun and repeat the whole process.
8. Continue in this way, adding only one new one at a time and continually rehearsing those previously learned.
9. Once your learner knows 10 - 12 of these nouns well, begin to practise the nouns in short sentences rather than only at single word level (e.g. "I have white teeth").
10. Continue until your learner can produce all the nouns correctly in short sentences.

Be aware of the importance of "subject-verb agreement" in language about plurals. Here's what in the sentence "The mice are hiding" the plural is communicated through the word 'mice'. But in this fact that there is more than one mouse, namely plural, is also communicated through the word 'are'. The subject of the sentence is 'The mice', which tells us there is more than one mouse. The verb 'are' also is more than one. To make a good sentence, the plurality of the subject and the verb have to match. This is subject-verb agreement. If we were to say, 'The mice is hiding', the plurality of the subject don't agree and the sentence doesn't sound right. Likewise, if we were to say, 'The mouse are hiding', the plurality of the subject and the verb don't agree, and the sentence sounds wrong. Matching the plurality of sentence is an important part of the grammar of conversations. We need to help our learners build and to use subject-verb agreement in their answers. Part of building language skills is building out to notice and use key pieces of grammatical information when they are listening to others and answer.

Sentence Repair is a combination of recasting the learner's errors to make them correct and as imitate your model. This means that you correct or extend the sentence as needed, and then he copy you. This should always be done with kindness and encouragement. It is a powerful way to build their grammar and vocabulary. It would be helpful to listen out for subject-verb agreement in sentence repair strategy.

Remember to give praise and feedback every step of the way!



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