

# Review on the Advantages and Disadvantages of Full-English Language Teaching Model in Primary School English classes

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**Abstract:** The new English curriculum standards revised in 2000 introduced many innovative ideas to the traditional educational model, one of which was to promote the use of full-English language teaching model in the classroom. This seems to be a basic requirement that has been agreed upon by everyone. Now that the implementation of the curriculum has entered its ninth year, is this reform of the full-English model appropriate for our primary English classrooms? Based on the concept of full-English teaching model, the paper discusses the advantages and disadvantages of full-English teaching model in the primary school English classes. Moreover, it analyzes the causes of the advantages and disadvantages. Finally, the paper puts forward the corresponding solutions. The research methods involve both content analysis and questionnaires for primary school students.

**Keywords:** Full-English Language Teaching Model; Primary School; Primary School English Curriculum Standard; Primary School Students

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With China's accession to the WTO and the development of internationalization and modernization, English-talented people have become more and more significant in China's international competition. Reforming traditional English teaching, exploring new teaching methods and cultivating high quality and efficient English language talents is an inevitable trend for foreign language teaching to meet the needs of social development and is the inevitable result of further deepening quality education. Meanwhile, as people's mindsets changing and more emphasis is placed on oral English, more and more parents suggest that teachers should speak more English in the classroom. The new English curriculum standards also advocate the use of full-English in the English classroom. These are all brilliant requirements. However, are they appropriate for children of all ages? What balance should be struck in the primary English classroom in this process? With these questions, this article will then carefully discuss the advantages and disadvantages of full English teaching model in primary school English classes. I will treat this issue in a dialectical way and find the way out to fix the current problems in full-English language teaching classes, so as to help the primary school students to become more and more interested in learning English and make English a useful tool not only for taking exams but also for practical usage.

## 1. Advantages of Full-English Teaching Model at The Primary School Level

Obviously, a good language environment is more effective than any lecture. The original purpose of full-English instruction is to give students a good language environment. A good language environment can help students quickly enter into the role, use English to talk and communicate without fear, build up their sense of language in application, acquire good English ability and build a good English foundation. What's more, using full-English teaching model in primary classrooms can help teachers continuously improve their professional teaching level. Because advocating full-English teaching model requires primary school English teachers to possess abundant academic knowledge. It is only then that students can move from simply being taught knowledge to master and use both language knowledge and language skills. That is to say, they can not only know the meaning of English sentences, but also being able to use it in real-life situations. This is a qualitative leap, and also an important guiding idea in the reform of the new English curriculum. Meanwhile, the syllabus proposes that language knowledge is for verbal ability, therefore, the test and examination content should be a combination of single and comprehensive, and attention should be paid to testing students' ability to use language knowledge comprehensively for communication. The syllabus also stipulates not only written tests, but also oral tests and listening tests as well. Nowadays, the proportion of the listening part in the English test papers of elementary school is 50%, and some of them even reach 60%. If we can develop students' English listening skills in the English classes, we can greatly avoid the problem training before the test.

## **2. Disadvantages of Full-English Teaching Model at the Primary School Level**

First of all, students at the middle and lower levels may feel intimidated because they do not understand what teachers are saying. Especially underachievers who have a weak knowledge base are hard to grasp new knowledge. They do not take the initiative to ask questions that they are confused with, and couldn't be preoccupied with the class, which will lead to their learning ability and knowledge base becoming weaker and weaker. Finally they will lose their interests in learning English. It is obviously a vicious circle. Moreover, primary school students are beginners in learning English, and if there are too many words, sentences and paragraphs that they do not understand in class, it will lead to confusion in their thinking, or confusion about what they have learned, or too much input leading to forgetfulness, not being able to grasp the key points, and finally making a lot of hard work but not seeing the effect, leading to the limited class time being wasted, and the carefully prepared teaching resources not playing a role. In addition, for some basic grammar and sentence patterns, it is obviously a bit ridiculous to explain them in full English language. It is difficult for teachers to express, let alone for students to understand. Therefore, if full-English language teaching model is being adapted, the explanation of grammar or some other contents will certainly become a big problem. Last but not least, for historical and cultural reasons, most people in China have a thin and shallow foundation in English, and the proportion of people who can use English fluently and clearly is relatively small. In our daily lives, it is difficult to establish a long-lasting language environment in which English becomes a language that is habitually applied. It is difficult to apply English only in the classroom, not to mention the primary school students. Thus making the teaching model only stay formal but not reaching the desired practical effect.

## **3. Problems to Pay Attention to When Implementing Full-English Teaching Model**

### **3.1 Stratified teaching**

Recognizing the diversity in students' English proficiency is paramount in fostering an inclusive and effective learning environment. Teachers are encouraged to conduct initial assessments to accurately gauge each student's current English level, enabling them to tailor their instruction accordingly. This personalized approach involves offering varied levels of teaching content, from foundational grammar and vocabulary for beginners to more complex textual analysis and critical thinking exercises for advanced learners. Additionally, adopting diverse teaching methods such as project-based learning, interactive group discussions, and multimedia-assisted lessons can cater to diverse learning styles and interests, ensuring that every student feels engaged and motivated. By adapting their strategies to meet individual needs, teachers empower students to progress at their own pace and ultimately achieve their full potential in English language acquisition.

### **3.2 Flexible use of teaching methods**

In the dynamic realm of teaching, teachers are encouraged to embrace a versatile arsenal of instructional strategies that cater to the diverse needs and preferences of their students. One such approach is situational teaching, where teachers create real-life scenarios that mirror authentic language use, fostering an immersive learning experience. This method not only sparks students' curiosity but also enhances their ability to apply linguistic skills in practical contexts. Additionally, task-based teaching encourages students to engage in purposeful activities, where they collaborate to accomplish specific goals, thereby fostering a sense of accomplishment and ownership over their learning journey. By flexibly integrating these and other innovative methods like flipped classrooms, inquiry-based learning, and digital tools, teachers can ignite a spark of interest and enthusiasm within their students, transforming the learning process into an exciting and empowering adventure.

### **3.3 Provide auxiliary materials**

Teachers play a pivotal role in facilitating students' English language acquisition by providing them with a range of supplementary materials tailored to their individual proficiency levels. English picture books, captivating songs and interactive digital tools can serve as invaluable aids in enhancing comprehension and retention. By leveraging these and other engaging materials, teachers empower students to delve deeper into the language, ultimately fostering a more comprehensive and lasting mastery of English knowledge.

## **4. Conclusion**

Full-English teaching model in primary school English class is a double-edged sword, which not only contains great potential to im-

prove students' comprehensive English ability, but also faces the practical challenges of students' individual differences and adaptation difficulty. When implementing this teaching model, teachers must adhere to student-centered principle, understand each student's English foundation, learning style and interest points, so as to customize the teaching strategies. Through stratified teaching, diversified teaching methods and various of English auxiliary materials, students can ride the wind and waves on the road of full-English teaching, give full play to their advantages, overcome the challenges and step towards a new height of English learning.

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