



Student Workbook

Mission Log: Learning How to Teach Others

6 Missions • Activities, Games & Exit Tickets

Name: _____

Class / Group: _____

Date Started: _____

Mission 4: Communication Skills

Activity 1: Body Language & The Tone Detective

Context: What You Aren't Saying

1. **Clear Language:** Be specific and direct. Skip fuzzy phrases like "Just kind of click around there." Say exactly what to touch, move, or look at.
2. **Tone of Voice:** Loud, fast, sharp, or calm—your voice tells the learner if they're safe or if they're annoying you.
3. **Body Language:** Your posture, eye contact, and gestures send silent signals. Crossing your arms or hovering too close creates pressure.



Notice how the instructor's tech jargon ("Apps," "Download") leaves the learner confused.

To her, those words are normal – but to him, they might as well be a foreign language. That's the trap every instructor falls into: forgetting what it's like not to know.

The Live Game: “Taboo” Instructor Edition

The Setup:

1. Get into pairs: one person is the Instructor, one person is the Learner.
2. The Instructor is handed a secret “Tech Superpower” they have to teach the Learner.
3. The Twist: There is a list of “Taboo” words you are forbidden from saying. If you say a forbidden word, your Learner must loudly make a buzzer sound: “BZZZ!”

On-page glossary:

Taboo:

Forbidden words you are banned from saying during the game.

Round 1: The App Wipeout

Instructor's Goal:

Explain how to delete an app they don't use anymore to save space.

FORBIDDEN WORDS:

App / Delete / Trash / Download / Screen

Learner's Job:

Actively listen. The moment the instructor uses a forbidden word, hit them with a “BZZZ!” and make them rephrase it!

Reflect with your partner:

Instructors—how did it feel to have your favorite shortcut words taken away?

Learners—what did your partner say that actually made sense to you?

Round 2: Internet Navigation

Instructor's Goal:

Explain how to open the internet browser and search for a recipe.

FORBIDDEN WORDS:

Google / Browser / Click / Search / Type

Learner's Job:

Listen closely and “BZZZ!” them if they slip up!

The Takeaway: Quick Team Reflection:

1. The Hardest Part: What was the single hardest word to avoid using during the game? Why do you think that word slips out so easily?

2. The “Aha!” Moment: What was the best alternative word or description your partner used that made perfect sense without tech jargon?

Activity 2: “Bad Teacher, Good Teacher”**The Setup:**

1. Stay with your partner from the last activity.
2. You will act out the same 30-second scene twice—with two totally opposite communication vibes.

The Script:

1. Instructor: “Okay, let's try that step one more time. Just select the big green button on the left side of the screen.”
2. Learner: (Clicks the wrong spot) “Wait, did I do it right?”

On-page glossary:

Tech jargon: Confusing computer words that are hard for regular people to understand (like browser, download, or window).

Round 1: The Panic Monster (Bad Communication)**The Actor:**

Partner A is the Instructor. Read the script above using Terrible Silent Cues.

Your Secret Cues:

Hover over Partner B's shoulder too closely, tap your foot impatiently, sigh right before you speak, and make your tone sound highly annoyed or rushed.

Quick Reflection: Partner B, how did it feel to try and “learn” while Partner A was acting like a panic monster? Did it make you want to try again or just stop?

Round 2: The Master Coach (Good Communication)**The Actor:**

Partner B is the Instructor. Read the exact same script, but switch to Master Coach Cues.

Your Secret Cues:

Take a half-step back to give them physical space, keep your shoulders relaxed, smile, and use a calm, steady “radio host” voice.

Quick Reflection: Partner A, what changed in your brain when the tone shifted? Why did this environment feel safer?

The Takeaway: Quick Team Reflection

When you get nervous or impatient during your real lesson, what is one physical bad habit you need to watch out for (e.g., sighing, hovering too close, talking at 100 mph, frowning)? How will you catch yourself and reset?