

The effective use of textbooks in the classroom

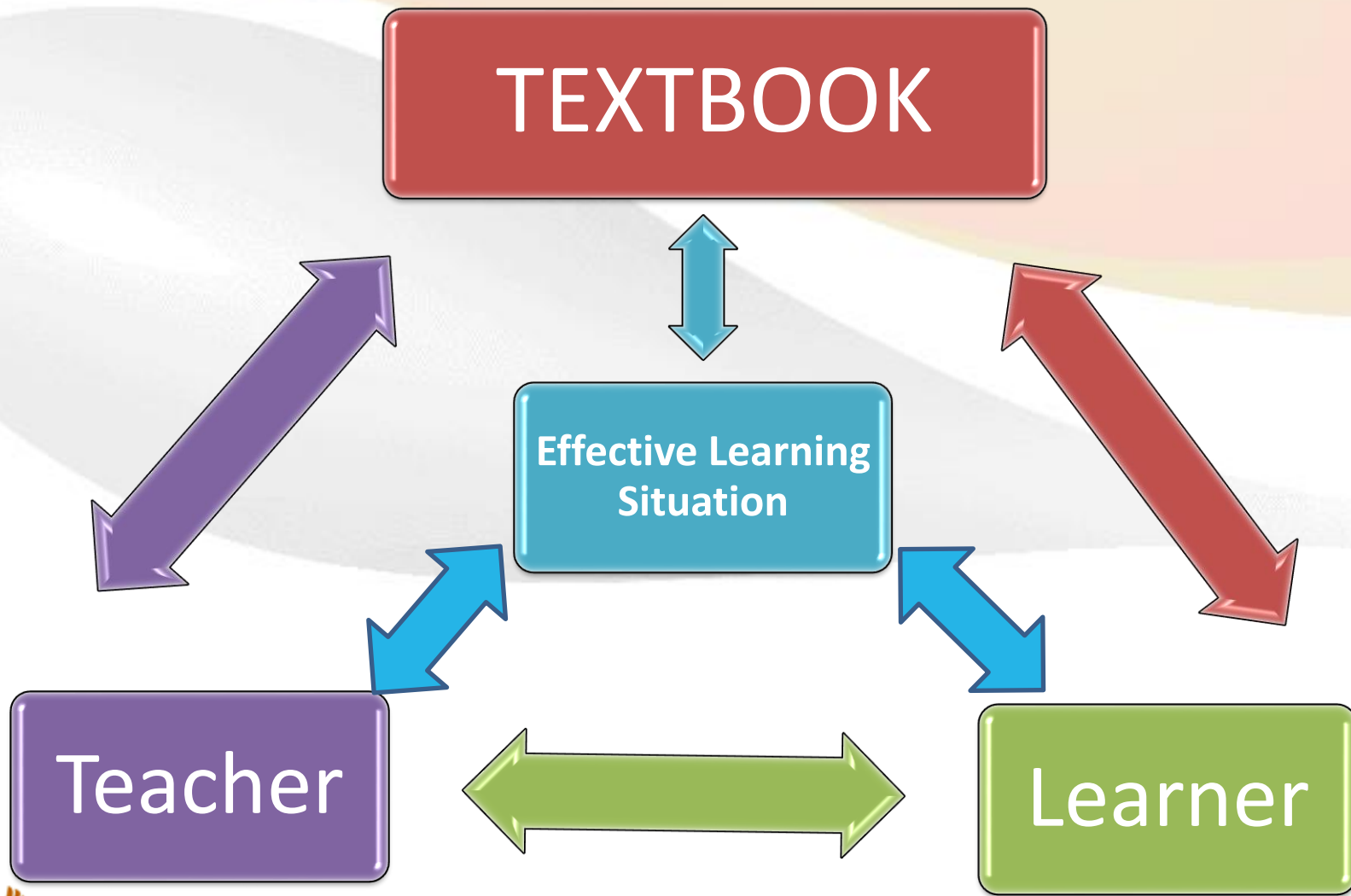


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Effective learning



Purpose of a textbook

A textbook can serve different purposes for teachers:

- (a) a core resource,
- (b) a source of supplementary material,
- (c) an inspiration for classroom activities, and
- (d) a curriculum itself



Advantages for teachers

- Textbooks **assist** managing a lesson.
- It **saves time**, **give direction** to lessons, **guide discussion**, facilitate in giving **homework**, making **teaching 'easier, better organized, more convenient'**, and
- most of all, it **provides confidence and security**.



Advantages for learners

- They see the textbooks as a **‘framework’** or **‘guide’**
- It helps them to **organize their learning** both inside and outside the classroom.
- It enables them to **learn ‘better, faster, clearer & easier’**



Characteristics of a good textbook

Three aspects to consider when selecting your textbook:

- Curriculum coverage,
- materials presentation,
- and language



Characteristics of a good textbook

Textbooks should:

- teach learners to learn,
- be resource books for ideas and activities, for instruction/learning, and
- give teachers rationale for what they do.
- bring about an effective learning situation



Strategies to use textbooks effectively in class

Assign meaningful reading homework

- Using **pre-reading strategies** will increase learner comprehension and recollections
- Assign learners to read a section and **prepare a graphic organizer** of the material



Strategies to use textbooks effectively in class

- Spend at **least one class period** at the beginning of the year exploring the textbook with your learners.
- **Explain why you chose** the book and show your excitement about it.
- ‘Walk’ them through the **structure of the book**, pointing out **features**.
- **Use the book daily** in class to establish its importance

Strategies to use textbooks effectively in class

Scan for the low-hanging fruit:

- Introducing learners to a topic by asking them to open to relevant chapter and scan the pages.
- Encourage them to look for pictures, headings, bolded words, and any charts/graphs.
- After a minute or two, ask them to suggest what they think the particular chapter addresses.

Strategies to use textbooks effectively in class

Search for roadblocks:

Many times, the content is packed with lots of **subject-specific terms** and/or acronyms.

The use of specialized language can prevent learners from understanding and finishing assigned readings.



REMEMBERING NEW TERMINOLOGY

Write the word

Rand

Draw / Paste a picture or symbol for the word



Write the definition

It is the local currency of South Africa

Use in a sentence

The Rand is a stronger currency than the Zimbabwean dollar



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REMEMBERING NEW TERMINOLOGY

Write the word

Street vendor

Draw / Paste a picture or symbol for the word



Write the definition

A person who sells something in the street, either from a stall or van or with their goods laid out on the sidewalk i.e. without having a fixed retail location (storefront).

Use in a sentence

We bought wors rolls for lunch from the street vendor at the farmer's market.



Strategies to use textbooks effectively in class

- Use activities that require learners **to do more** than just passively read.
- The assignments must be structured so that learners **engage and respond** to the reading e.g. quizzes
- **Play with words** - scrabble, bingo etc

