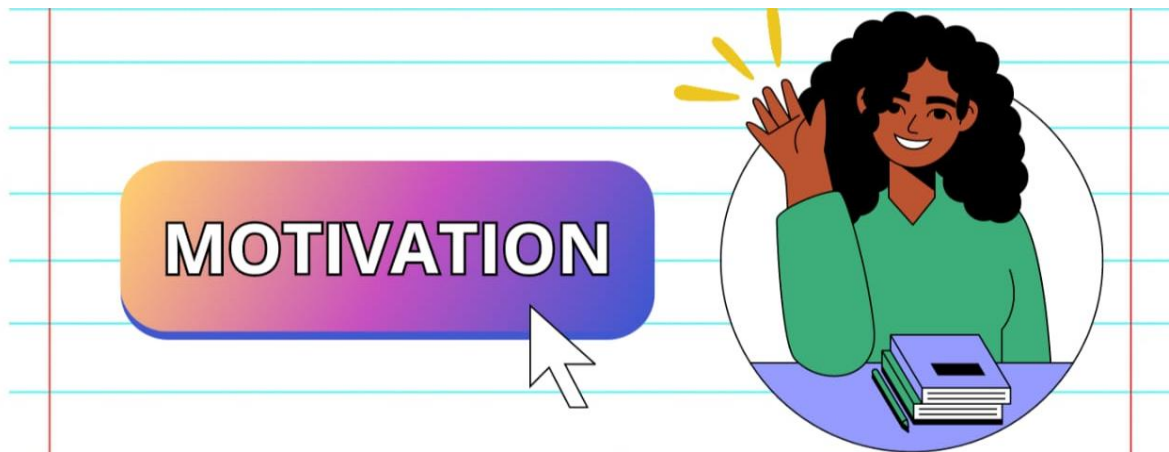


## A Brief Discussion on Motivation and Ways to Motivate Students in English Language Learning

KONG, Yuan. A brief discussion on motivation and ways to motivate students in English language learning. **International Education Studies**, v. 2, n. 2, p. 145-149, 2009.

Review by Priscila Morais (Team Member). Feb. 22, 2023.



Picture adapted from Canva.com

In *A brief discussion on motivation and ways to motivate students in English language learning*, Yuan Kong claims that motivation is essential to English learning; however, keeping students motivated is considered a difficult task. The author discusses the theme by pointing out some ways to motivate students in learning a language. The article is a good resource to support new teachers to understand the value of motivation and to provide practical insights to maintain this fundamental factor of the language learning process.

Considering the work of Spaulding (1992)<sup>1</sup>, Kong divides and defines motivation as Intrinsic and Extrinsic: the first is considered an inner desire to accomplish a task successfully, with external value or not, and the second is the motivation due to an external or functional result. It is interesting to see that students' motivation is not just the teacher's responsibility, but the teachers have a significant role in helping students to have real goals and achieve their aims using the language.

The author points out that students' goals influence their motivation and effort to learn English. Therefore, Kong suggests some ways to develop students' motivation, for example, the use of exciting activities, such as cooperative activities and role-plays. Songs and games are appropriate in English teaching, especially in primary school, whereas for higher grades, games like guessing games, gap filling, and chain story games are practical and interesting.

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<sup>1</sup> SPAULDING, Cheryl. L. **Motivation in the classroom**. USA: McGraw-Hill, 1992.

Such activities should also involve new and effective resources, such as multimedia, the internet, and considering nowadays mobile application – a software application developed specifically for using on smartphones and tablets and that can be used at school or at home. One more significant practice is to create a relaxing and positive learning environment. In English learning, students need a lot of speaking practice in class, so having a place where they can feel safe and comfortable to give their opinions is crucial to motivate them.

In conclusion, Yuan Kong's article provides a general review of the importance of motivation in English language learning and presents some useful strategies for motivating students. Although the writer is from China, his suggestions and ideas of activities can be applied in Brazil in many English learning contexts.

As the title says, Kong's article provides a brief discussion of the theme. If teachers require more information or steps to develop their students' motivation, they should look for other titles that will complement, explain, and expand with details motivation issues, such as *Ten commandments for motivating language learners: results of an empirical study*<sup>2</sup>, published in 1998 by Zoltán Dörnyei and Kata Csizér, and *Motivational strategies in the language classroom*<sup>3</sup>, published in 2001 by Zoltán Dörnyei.



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<sup>2</sup> DÖRNYEI, Zoltán; CSIZÉR, Kata. Ten commandments for motivating language learners: results of an empirical study. **Language teaching research**, v. 2, n. 3, p. 203-229, 1998.

<sup>3</sup> DÖRNYEI, Zoltán. **Motivational strategies in the language classroom**. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001.