

Teaching English in the Settlement Sector

Tips for Getting Hired:

- ✓ Complete free self-directed training **and** list it on your résumé (For example, the ‘CLB Bootcamp’).
- ✓ Read job postings carefully and follow directions for the application process.
- ✓ Apply for positions with a tailored cover letter and well-written résumé.
- ✓ Learn about LINC and the clients you may encounter (For example, through volunteering, attending workshops and webinars, and exploring resources)
- ✓ Get your feet wet with on-call teaching in LINC

Helpful Links for Resources and Training:

[Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks](#)

[AMSSA](#)

[Tutela](#)

[BC Teal](#)

[PBLA Practice Guidelines](#)

We asked teachers three questions, “What is...

1. *...1 thing you wished you knew going into this field?”*
2. *...1 tip you could give to a new teacher about teaching in this field?”*
3. *...1 reason why you stay teaching in this field?”*

Here’s what some of them said...

1. I wish I had known that I would not only be teaching and motivating students but also dealing with a lot of different emotions that added an extra dimension to the job.
2. Make sure that you have life work balance. As one smart teacher and presenter from the UK said in his keynote speech at a TESOL conference, a teacher with a life is a happy and better instructor. Also, keep in mind the motto for teaching in this digital age: Pedagogy over technology.
3. Although there is a routine, the ever-changing contexts, and interesting people from many parts of the world and different cultures make it all worthwhile.

Danuta P. (Teacher for 23 years)



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1. I agree with Danuta. There is a whole other emotional layer to working with newcomers, which sometimes has to be worked through in order for students to learn. In particular, I'm thinking about those people who have experienced trauma, or have mental health issues, or learning challenges.
2. Remember that there is no perfect lesson plan and don't be afraid make adjustments as you go. It's okay to pivot and go off your plan if things are not going well. I think it's important to be sensitive to the needs of the students and "read the room" - always check in and make sure they are following you.
3. I think the main reason I've been in this field for so long is that the landscape is always changing - different students from different parts of the world, different material, technology - it never gets boring!

Cathy C. (Teacher for 30 years)

1. I wish I had known that it's the teacher who sets the tone for the class, who brings the enthusiasm, who motivates her/his audience, who steers the ship to explore with the explorers, who creates the dreams of their future and makes the class into a community. In short, it's the teacher who writes her/his own scripts.
2. One thing that always works in the classroom is to support your students. Having office hours is a must-do as it gives you an opportunity to listen to their needs and provide them with extra help.
3. There are many things that make me to stay in this field, bringing a change to someone's life, being creative, meaningful and rewarding work and above all the passion to make a difference.

Ammarah I. (Teacher for 20 years)



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- 1. I had no idea at the time how long I'd need to prep, that no matter how long I prepped, I may need to scrap it all and do something completely different if the thing I had planned didn't work. I didn't have a feel for pacing, and I had no idea how ideas of teaching (even methods) would change over time. I definitely didn't think we would use PBLA which I think is something that makes it quite difficult for new teachers in LINC. I had no idea that teaching adults will involve more than just teaching, that a teacher is a clown, a counselor, know-it-all person and so on.**
- 2. Tip? Be aware that adult immigrants learn at a different pace than high school students. Don't worry if you are not in control 100% of the time. It's okay.**
- 3. Why am I staying? Because I love it! I am helping immigrants and I know how it feels to be a new immigrant - I came here 30 years ago and although I could speak English, I could tell stories about how it feels to leave everything you had had and get to a place where you don't know anyone and you don't know how to do the everyday things. Also, I learn about people, there is always something to learn.**

Vesna L. (35 years teaching, 28 in LINC)

- 1. One thing you wished you knew going into this field: For me, first, I wish I knew that the funding comes from IRCC. Our jobs are largely dependent on them.**
- 2. One tip you could give to a new teacher about teaching in this field: Learn to visualize yourself in the students' place.**
- 3. One reason why you stay teaching in this field: I can learn about different cultures and languages. I enjoy making connections with the students.**

Sabrina S. (Teacher 6 years)



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1. Technology plays an increasing role, not replacing good teaching skills, but staying on top of that: blended teaching, thinking of relevant tasks. Note: organize your files.
2. Think of your role as not only a teacher but settling people into Canada; some students will stay a shorter time; some a longer time; nevertheless, you have ushered people along their journey in Canada.
3. The everyday gratitude is real and you feel it; You're affecting the future ability of your community; Your students are your neighbours; They are the future of Canada.

Raymond G. (Teacher for 15 years)

1. I wish I'd known how much easier it is to make my own materials than spend hours looking for or editing existing materials (not that there isn't a lot of good stuff out there, but it often doesn't "fit" my classes).
2. Don't be afraid of a little chaos in the classroom! Teaching a class of adults can be "messy" -- but frankly, that's part of the fun!
3. Like my colleagues, I stay here because I feel I can make a difference, no matter how small; and working with humans is a really wonderful thing!

Tanya L. (30 years teaching, 27 in LINC)

"Part of teaching is helping people create themselves." ~ Maxine Greene

"The teacher is of course an artist, but being an artist does not mean that he or she can make the profile, can shape the students. What the educator does in teaching is to make it possible for the students to become themselves."

*- **We Make the Road by Walking**, by Myles Horton and Paulo Freire*