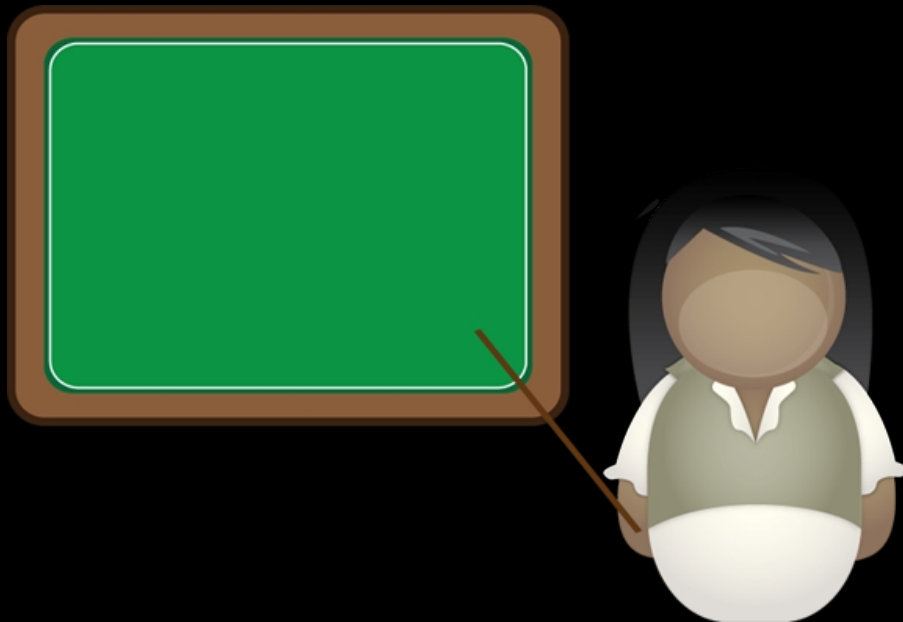


Effective

Teaching

a OnePageBook™



Brendan Martin & Geir Isene

You've just entered a classroom with a terrible student. Luckily for you he is a great teacher who strongly believes in the power of learning by teaching.

Brendan has worked extensively with the Montessori teaching movement in Europe. He always asks students to teach each other with as simple explanations as possible. Both Brendan and Geir has held hundreds of courses and workshops covering a wide range of topics. The focus is always on simplicity – how to effectively get a student from her current to a new level of understanding. Learning by teaching is a great tool to accomplish just that.

“If you can't explain it simply, you don't understand it well enough.” If you want to understand something well, explain it simply. By attempting to explain a concept in simple terms, you'll quickly see where you have a good understanding of that concept. You'll also be able to instantly pinpoint your problem areas, because they'll be the areas where you either get stuck or where you end up resorting to using complex language and terminology.

Step 1: Grasp a concept.

Step 2: Explain the concept to another in your own words. Focus on using plain, simple language. Don't limit your explanation to a simple definition or language translation. Challenge yourself to explain the concept by using simple yet effective examples. If it helps to draw, then draw. If it helps to sing, then sing.

Step 3: Review your explanation and identify the areas where you didn't know something or where you feel your explanation is dodgy. Ask the other person for advice. Once you've pinpointed problem areas, you can contact Brendan¹ or Geir² for further explanations and examples to aid your understanding. We might help you. Or he might challenge you in ways you may find uncomfortable.

Step 4: Look forward to the next concept. Challenge yourself to explain the concept in even simpler terms and by using self-explanatory diagrams. Disclaimer: Swearing, singing, and drawing are allowed in class.

Remember, you teach for the benefit of others. Help others grasp the concepts in the most efficient way. Use the least effort, the least words and the simplest way possible to help others really get it.

Here's the exercise that will improve your teaching skills:

1. Think of a complex or difficult concept.
2. Write it down.
3. Simplify it by text or drawing.
4. Explain it to a kid. Watch where you struggle.
5. Simplify it some more.
6. Explain it to another kid.
7. Simplify again – until explaining it to a kid goes smooth and efficient.
8. Then get the kid to explain it to another kid. Listen without interrupting. What did you learn?

When you achieve the above efficiently, you're a good teacher.

¹Contact Brendan: <https://brendanmartin.com>

²Contact Geir <https://isene.org>

This OnePageBook™ will give you a simple and raw take on teaching effectively.

The publisher, "Å" (A-Circle AS, www.acircle.no) carries the slogan, "Boosting performance". The company helps teams and individuals to higher performance, reaching their potential.

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"Pretend you are teaching it to a student in grade 6."

(Richard Feynman)

*"In learning you will teach,
and in teaching you will learn."*

(Phil Collins)

*"I never teach my pupils,
I only attempt to provide the conditions
in which they can learn."*

(Albert Einstein)

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