

Step – Clarifying language

Answers

Whiteboard A shows a Word document which the teacher has shared with her student using screenshare. The information isn't very well organised. There are new words at the top and bottom of the screen and it looks like further vocabulary will continue down the page. This means the student will not be able to see all of it at one time. It'd be better if the teacher put vocabulary on one document and dealt with the grammar on a second document.

The example sentences are organised effectively but there's no clarification of meaning on the board and no highlighting of form. If students took a screenshot of this, it's unlikely to help them review the language at a later date.

Whiteboard B shows an online whiteboard. The grammar is well organised, with clear clarification of language and attention to form. The use of red in the example sentences highlights the form, plus the structure is given in the red box. However, there's no focus on pronunciation - it might be worth highlighting that /t/ at the end of 'must' and 'might' aren't always pronounced. This will help the student to hear the language when listening.

There's no vocabulary recorded at all. It could be that the teacher has created a separate board for this or the teacher has just not recorded any. Obviously, it's important to record new vocabulary for learners, just as it is in the face-to-face classroom.

Whiteboard C shows a mini whiteboard which the teacher has written on and held up to the camera. The screen is divided clearly into two, which helps the student to see what the grammar is and what the vocabulary is. The word stress and word forms are given for each lexical item.

The form of the grammar is highlighted with underlining and the structure given at the bottom. Colour would help to highlight this further. The sentences look as if they're clearly organised but the meaning isn't clear as they're not listed in any particular order. This will not help a student to understand it or record it effectively. There's no attention to pronunciation with regard to the modal verbs.