THE ART OF ASKING QUESTIONS

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Questions are often asked to help students think of and apply what they are learning. Good questions prompt ideas and thoughts. They can even lead a student to do tasks voluntarily.

Since it is important to know our students’ interests and needs, good questions are crucial. These questions can enhance your teaching and help your students learn.

Poor questions can be irritating or offending to students. They can also be a reason for you to lose control of the situation and lose your students’ interest. It is significant to ask questions that:

• Are simple and direct.

• Enhance the things that you have discussed.

• Help you assess whether the students understand what you are discussing.

• Make people apply the things that they have learned.

Our students will feel open to talk and share ideas as they respond to good questions. They can even raise questions when they do not fully understand the lesson. Good questions are also a way for our students to share their feelings and thoughts. That way, we will be able to know them even more. These are the examples of good questions:

• What questions do you have about our lesson today?

• Do you believe that you are able to do this task? Why?
• How do we sometimes make the same error that we have committed in this example?

In order to help our students prepare to answer questions, you may want to say, “As we are discussing this part of the lesson, ask yourself, ‘How can I better understand this passage?’” Avoid questions that:

• Has multiple ideas.

• Are about the lessons that you have not yet taught.

• Has an unclear purpose.

Do not, however, ask too much questions. Do not require students to say unimportant and very obvious answers. Do not just let students guess the right answer. Do not ask questions that might shame someone if they are not able to answer it.

Always remember that when a right question is asked in the right timing, it can make a huge difference in the learning process of a student. On the other hand, a bad question can ruin everything. The best way to master asking good questions is by listening carefully to your students and focusing throughout your discussion. It may require a lot of effort to do this but if we do our part, we can become a tool in the successful learning experience of our students.

References: