

Eraissa Lora

Chapter Exercise

- **Consider the Teaching suggestions (1-7), what suggestion do you find the most useful, and explain why you find it useful.**

Out of the seven Teaching Suggestions, number two focuses on form. Number two suggests using the names of famous people from all over the world to practice the copula *be* with country of origin and nationality. The teacher can give one or two examples and then provide only a name for students to practice on their own. I found this suggestion useful, not only can I use this as is, but I can have different variations of the same exercise. One of the variations is asking students to use each other's names and what they know about their peers to make simple sentences about each other. The students would pair up and interview each other, they would write the simple sentence that the students can write up. After, the students will present their peer and read the sentence they wrote using the copula *be*.

This can also help the students improve their oral skills and pronunciation. The goal is to show students that practicing the copula *be* is more than writing well and perfecting their grammar, but instill in them that if they can write it, they can speak it.

6. What will you say to a high-intermediate ESL/EFL student who complains that you correct mistakes in his compositions when he writes sentences like this one, but that he hears native speakers say things like this all the time?

Either my roommates or my friend Bill are going to buy the refreshments.

I would try to explain to the student that everyone else who is using this common phrase, they are using it wrong. The rule is that the subject-verb agreement should occur with the subject noun nearest to the verb. So, if the word "are" is a part of the sentence, it often refers to "you,

they” in the sentence. In this sentence, the subject before the verb “are” is “my friend Bill” then it should be changed to “is” because Bill is singular. To make the sentence grammatically correct, then the “are” must be changed to “is”. Another way to fix it is also to switch “my friend Bill” and “my roommates”.