

FROM LESSON PREPARATION TO INSTRUCTION

*Why time-saving tools
for English as a Second Language teachers are
essential to increase student success
in a post-COVID learning environment*





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INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS OFF2CLASS?

Off2Class has been a leader in supporting English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers since 2014, providing tools that save teachers time and allow teachers to efficiently support their English Learners' (ELs') language acquisition needs. The Off2Class platform consists of four components: lesson content, homework, a placement test and assessments. As a digitally-native tool, Off2Class works seamlessly between physical and online classrooms and supports the hybrid programming of ESL institutions in more than one hundred countries.



(1) A [2020 Cambridge University Press survey](#) of over 1000 Academic English Teachers found that 69% of teachers have been spending more time preparing for lessons since the start of the pandemic.

(2) The hybrid model combines both face-to-face and online learning, meaning teachers need to frequently move between the two teaching methods.

(3) [PDK 2019, Frustration in the Schools](#)

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Lesson preparation time has always been a challenge for teachers, and it's even more burdensome for the many teachers whose lesson preparation time takes place outside of their paid working hours. Teacher time is a finite, limited resource. When teachers allocate time to lesson preparation, they restrict the time that can be used to focus on students and to make meaningful learning interventions. This makes it more difficult for teachers to support their students in meeting their goals. The demands of lesson preparation have been magnified since the COVID19 pandemic (1), with teachers moving between online and physical learning environments and the increased use of hybrid learning models (2). Content that is designed for face-to-face teaching is not equally suited for online teaching, and the lesson preparation burden on teachers has been taxing. Looking forward, as the hybrid model of education is here to stay, this problem will only intensify.

Teaching is known to be a stressful profession with high turnover rates. In the 2019 PDK poll (3), half of US Public School teachers said they had seriously considered leaving the profession in the previous few years, citing low pay and high stress as the most influential factors. Despite these well-known challenges, it appears that little research has been done to understand what types of tools can help teachers save time in lesson preparation.

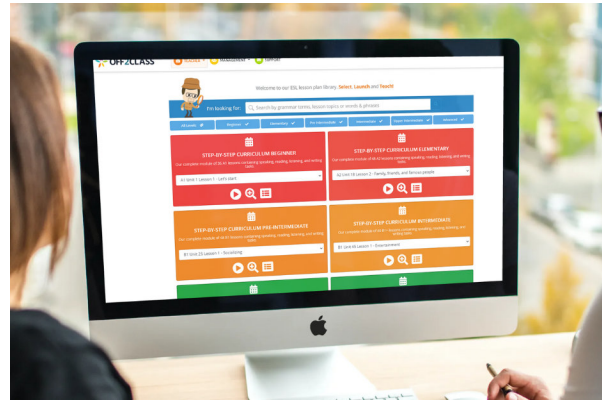
THE OFF2CLASS METHOD FOR TEACHING ESL

TEACHER GUIDED

At the core of the Off2Class Method for teaching ESL is the belief that students acquire second languages most effectively when guided by teachers. Despite being one of the most valuable resources for student success, teacher time is increasingly scarce. Therefore, Off2Class creates tools that enable teachers to save time and focus on what they do best: teaching.

DIGITAL-FIRST

Off2Class' content is built for screen-based classrooms. This means that content does not need to be adapted between online lessons (e.g., using videoconference) and screen-equipped, physical classrooms. As well as lesson content, placement tests, formative assessments and homework assignments are embedded into Off2Class. This digital-first toolkit allows teachers to evaluate students and swiftly choose lessons that address students' needs.

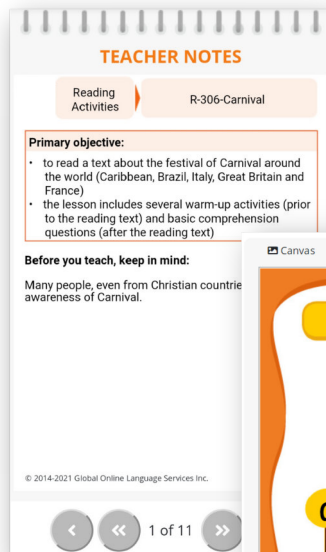
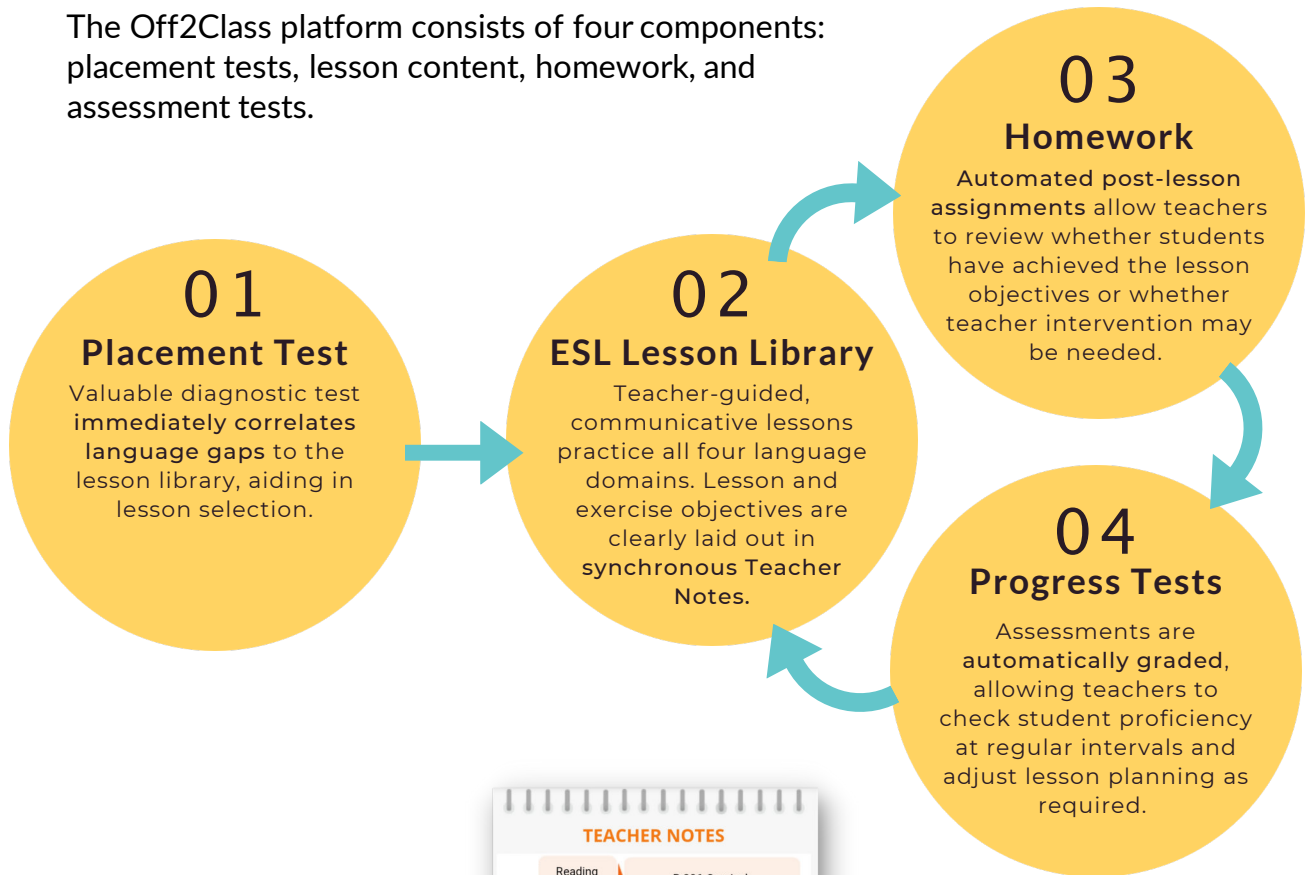


PRE-PREPARED, YET ADAPTABLE LESSON CONTENT

When using Off2Class, there is no need for teachers to plan for every lesson. Pre-prepared lesson content covers all four language domains (speaking, listening, reading and writing). The content focuses on practical use of communicative language, with vocabulary and grammar instruction embedded in real-life contexts. Adjoining Teachers Notes, which are synchronized to the lesson content, coach teachers on how to deliver and personalize every slide. Within the Off2Class classroom, a host of tools allows teachers to adapt the content in real-time, based on how their students are responding to the content.

TEACHING WITH OFF2CLASS

The Off2Class platform consists of four components: placement tests, lesson content, homework, and assessment tests.



Off2Class content is built for screen-based classrooms. Pre-prepared lesson content covers all four language domains, and lesson objectives are clearly laid out in synchronous Teacher Notes.

RESEARCH

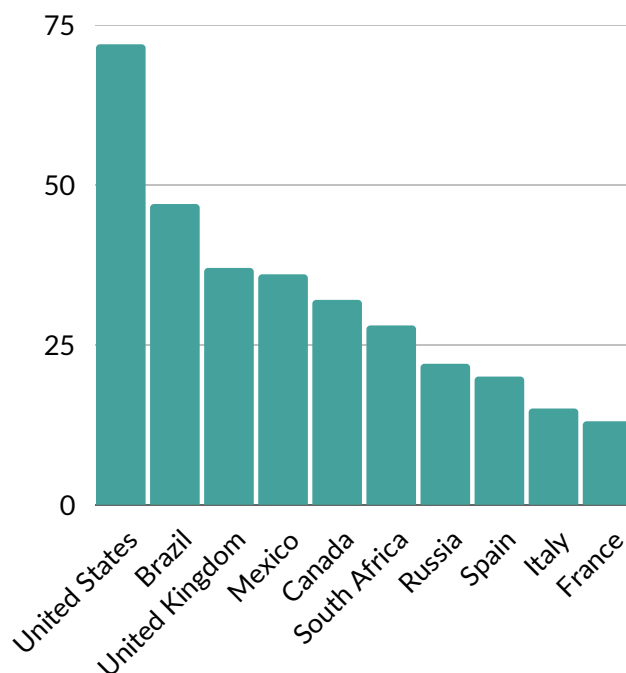
In March 2021, Off2Class customers were invited to complete two surveys via email and social media. Over 550 ESL teachers from at least 80 countries and 30 US States responded. The surveys addressed these fundamental questions on lesson preparation for teachers:

- How important is saving lesson preparation time for teachers?
- Can teachers save lesson preparation time by using the Off2Class Method for Teaching ESL?
- Can teachers teach more students (i.e., increase their active student capacity) by using the Off2Class Method for Teaching ESL?

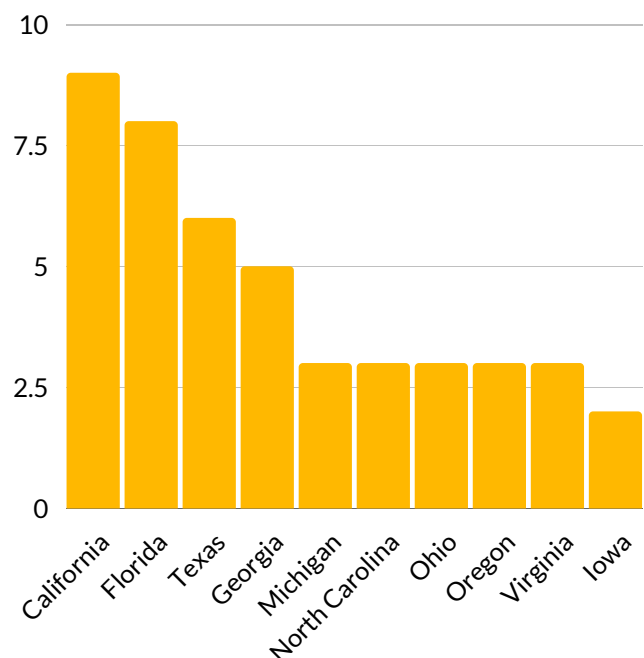
Survey One (551 respondents) provided quantitative data on the importance to teachers of lesson preparation time compared with other Off2Class product features. Analysis of Survey One led to Survey Two (373 respondents), to gather specific quantitative data on how much time Off2Class helps teachers save.

Survey One	March 2021	551 Respondents	Feedback on Off2Class
Survey Two	March 2021	373 Respondents	Quantitative questions on time saving

**Top ten countries
(Survey One respondents):**

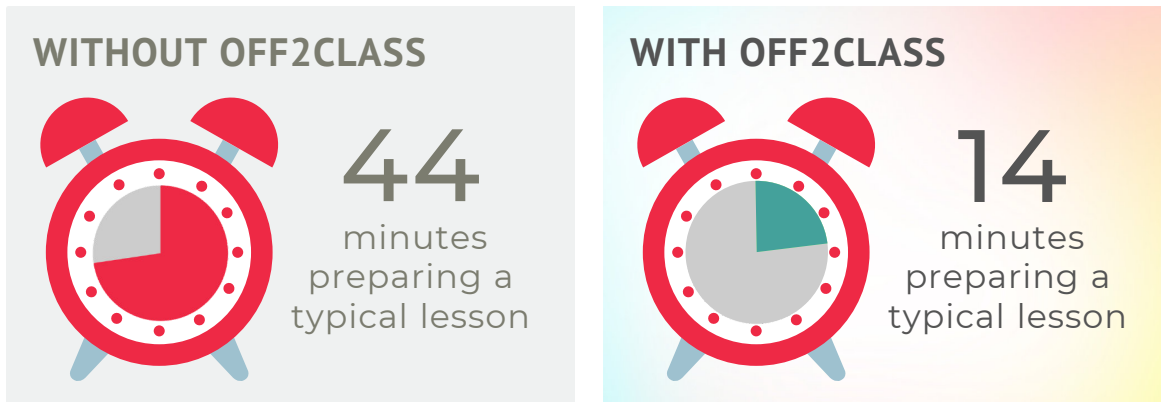


**Top ten US States
(Survey One respondents):**



SURVEY RESULTS

Off2Class saves teachers an average of 30 minutes of preparation time per lesson, a reduction of 68.3%.



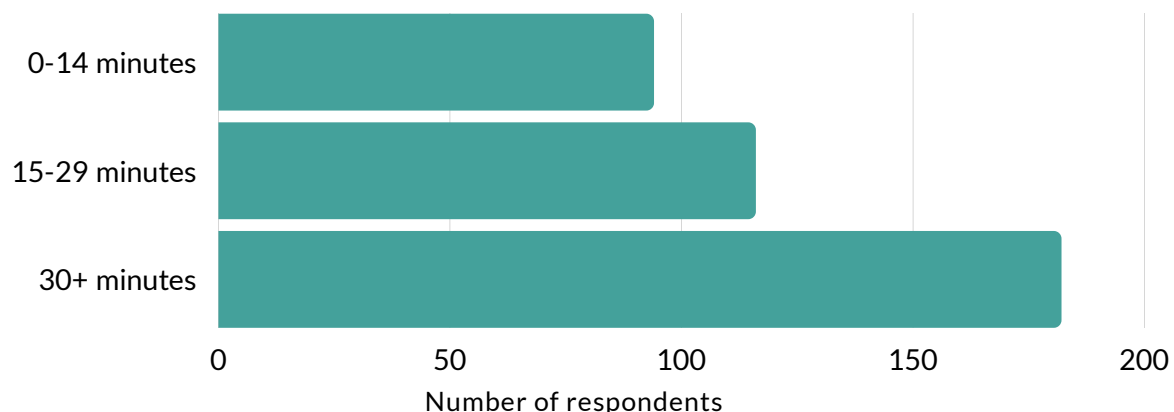
Without Off2Class, 83% of teachers spend more than 20 minutes preparing a typical lesson, and 1 in 10 spend more than 90 minutes.

"[With Off2Class] it literally takes me 5 minutes to choose a lesson, quickly scan through it and then I'm ready to go."

Elmi, teacher at Speváček, Prague, Czech Republic.

With Off2Class, 92.4% of teachers reduce their lesson preparation time. On average, teachers reduce their lesson preparation time by 68.3%. Our sample size has a confidence interval of $\pm 3.3\%$. This reduction results in an average saving of 30 minutes preparation time per lesson. In fact, after using Off2Class, **1 in 4 teachers (25.5%) spends only 5 minutes preparing for a single lesson.**

Number of minutes of lesson preparation saved, per lesson with Off2Class:



SURVEY RESULTS

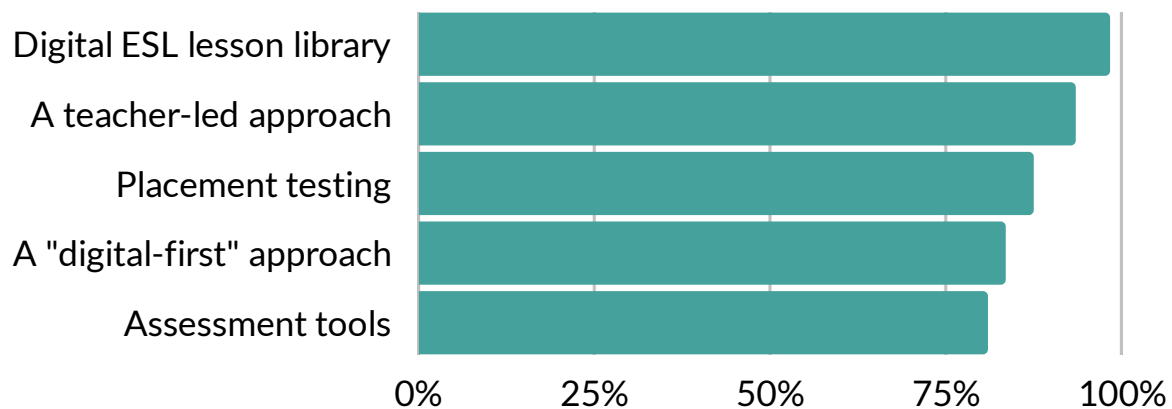
Tools that save teachers time are the most important factor for student success.

"Before Off2Class, I was writing my own curriculum a week at a time. Off2Class has provided me with more material and resources than I knew existed."

Clint, Volunteer ESL Teacher, Olathe, KS, USA.

98.2% of teachers surveyed said that access to a digital ESL "lesson library" is important for student fluency.

Percentage of teachers who consider each feature to be important or very important for student fluency:



SURVEY RESULTS

Saving Lesson Preparation increases student capacity.

"I taught 36 hours last week and this would not have been possible without access to Off2Class"

Lois Sangari, Online Teacher at
Amazing Talker, Johannesburg, South
Africa.

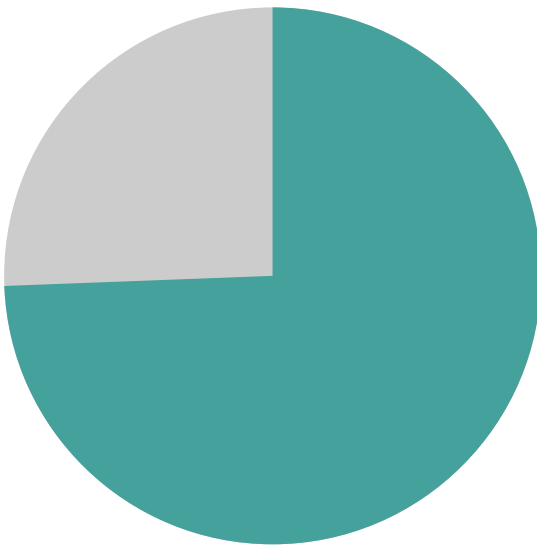
"Off2Class has greatly decreased my prep time, and has allowed me to adapt on the fly, to quickly find lessons targeting a grammar focus or topic that comes up during the lesson time."

Amanda, ESL Teacher, Florida, USA.

With Off2Class, **74.4% of teachers surveyed increased** the number of students they teach. On average, each teacher took on 3.6 additional students.

By reducing lesson preparation time by 30 minutes per lesson, a teacher who teaches 60-minute lessons can theoretically increase active student capacity by 50%, **without working additional hours**. The additional time can be spent on focusing on supporting their current students.

For teachers whose lesson preparation time falls outside of their paid hours, reducing lesson preparation effectively increases their hourly pay.



74.4%
of teachers surveyed
increased the number of
students they teach due to
the time saved

CONCLUSION

The Off2Class method for teaching ESL can save teachers lesson preparation time and increase their active student capacity.

"O2C has dramatically decreased lesson planning, allowing teachers to spend more time focusing on adapting to students' specific needs before class and while teaching."

Ron Churion, Director of Business Operations, iSpeak Center, Santiago, Chile.

The ongoing lack of resources specifically designed for online use has increased the burden of lesson preparation for teachers. In a **hybrid teaching environment**, where teachers are required to jump between multiple classroom modalities, lesson preparation time increases even further.

Time-saving tools that reduce lesson preparation time **reduce costs and save resources**: most notably, the increasingly scarce resource of teacher time. Those resources can be redeployed towards students, allowing teachers to provide more personalized support as well as increase the number of students they teach.

The survey conducted suggests that the Off2Class Method for Teaching ESL saves teachers 30 minutes of lesson preparation time per lesson - a reduction of **68.3%**. For a teacher that teaches a typical twenty-five lessons per week, this amounts to a **time saving of 12.5 hours per week**. When teachers can rely on high-quality teaching materials and tools, they are able to maintain high standards of teaching while increasing their teaching capacity. Off2Class is a time-saving tool that can increase student success, teacher capacity and, ultimately, the satisfaction of both teachers and students.



To find out more about Off2Class, or this research, please contact us via our [website](#).



References

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