

WHAT I'VE LEARNED ABOUT DELIVERING IN CHINA – IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER

Choose the ones that make sense to you.

1. Pack your sense of humour: this will help you be resilient and deal with the unexpected. You will have to live with a certain level of uncertainty 24 hours a day – go with the flow and enjoy.
2. Take as many forms of resources as possible and be prepared for none of them to work. No black out curtains will kill your power points, no matter the two state-of-the-art screens and console, so will the fact the prompts are in Chinese, so will the non-arrival of 'the man' or 'the lady' with the keys to the console, so will a power failure. **You are the subject.** Take your own chalk.
3. Be passionate about your subject, no matter how low you feel, or whether it is the third time you have given the session in the room on the sixth floor with no lift, and no cooling and with the temp in the 30's. Your energy will energise your students.
4. Education is about relationship – smile (a lot), tell simple jokes and laugh. Greet your students every time you see them. Wish them goodbye, a good rest, a good lunch, a good weekend. Tell them why it is important to you that they do well.
5. Non-verbal communication is very powerful. Move around, preferably in front of the console, use expressive hand gestures, vary tone, demonstrate, ham it up, laugh at yourself.
6. Ask rhetorical questions. Write these on the board. Give the answer verbally. Write the answer on the board. This will focus the students' thoughts. Use the magic term to create interest: 'This would make a good **exam** question.'
7. Write simple questions on the board/power point and ask them to write answers. You can then escape from the front of the room and frighten the sleepers and game-players at the back. Insist they put pen to paper. The students will require you to write the 'correct' answer on the board, so oblige them. They will be less anxious and so will you. Remember, they're grappling with English, an Australian accent and new subject matter – so don't throw a whole new way of doing things at them at the same time. Anxiety has been shown to inhibit learning.
8. Limit vocabulary in written and spoken language. Be consistent in its usage. Where subject-specific language is required, define it in writing early, use consistently, and define verbally each time you use it. Avoid using two different meanings of the same word, especially in close proximity. Eg What **interest** would a borrower have in the **interest** on their loan?
9. Speak more slowly than usual. This might bore the 30% of competent English-speakers in the front rows, who are also very conscientious students, but make you more accessible to the 30% of middling students in the middle rows, and the incompetent English-speakers, alienated students in the back rows. Say things multiple times in different ways. Where possible, reinforce in writing and non-verbally.
10. Pass pieces of paper around each session for students to write comments and questions on anonymously. It will take you less than five minutes at the end of each session to see where the problems are. A great use of time.

11. Review and preview. Spend at least 20 minutes at the beginning of each session reviewing the key points from the last session, and at the end of the session, refer students to the schedule and ask them to read the material on the coming session. Also continually review how each component of your subject fits together.
12. Provide copies of all power points at the start of your subject. Again this will reduce student anxiety, and head off the flood of flash-drive wielding students wanting to copy what you've just shown.