

Another problem presented is that Arabic has predictable stressing of words where as English appears to them as not having a predictable pattern for stressing words. For example convict (Oo) versus convict (oO). And another further problem is with the productive skills (such as writing) that is Arabic has a radically different script (cursive) and is written and read right to left instead of left to right.

Arabic also has no equivalent of the auxiliary verb “do”. Rather the Arabic speaker indicates they are asking a question by a change of tone. In fact, this can work in English but sometimes sounds unnatural. Arabic also has no verb for “am” and as such is often omitted. Also Arabic lacks modal verbs – another hindrance to learning English.

The problems faced by Arabic students would be more than say a typical European student (who can benefit from positive transfers) however there are positives. Literacy is highly regarded in the Arab world and the teacher is held as a respected figure (often addressed by title, eg, “Teacher can you help me”). A good writer is admired and colloquial language plays no major part in Arabic.

(Learner English, Michael Swan & Bernard Smith)

Analysis

Looking at Amjed's sample of writing reveals that he has trouble with when to use the present simple and when to use the present continuous tense. A further problem appears to be with the use of definite and indefinite articles and finally one other problem appears to be with subject verb agreement. As such I am suggesting these 3 areas for him to focus on. That is, these are things he can add to his portfolio of English learning.

[Note: I have attached a copy of his need analysis and a sample of his writing at the end of this assignment]

| Nature of Mistake | Example for his Writing |
|--|---|
| Simple Vs Continuous (chosen which to use) | <p>“After that the cell is going to the second step Gap 1 (G1) in this step the cell is increases in size, synthesis RNA and producing proteins, in adding all the molecules in the cell is getting ready to the next step for the DNA synthesis.”</p> <p><u>It should be “increasing” and “synthesizing”.</u></p> |
| Definite Vs Indefinite (chosen which to use) | <p>“Cell cycle is events that take place before the cell is divided into two cells, the start point of cell division is interphase in this stage the side of the cell is getting bigger as the cell is synthesizing RNA and producing amino acids, interphase is divided into four steps; first one is Gap 0 (G0) this step is between the cell cycle and the cell division.”</p> <p><u>It should start off with “The cell cycle...”</u></p> |
| Subject Verb Agreement | <p>Thirdly Chromatids is single copies of the entire DNA present in chromosomes, during cell division, prior to mitosis a cell contains to complete copies of the genome the chromatids are linked at the centromere.</p> <p><u>It should be “Chromatids are”.</u></p> |