Teaching Philosophy
By Xie Wenjing

“Learning language should be fun!” was my motto when I myself was a foreign language learner. Now, I’ve been a foreign language teacher for several years. This motto is my goal in my teaching, especially when I’m teaching novice learners.

When I design my curriculum, I usually ask myself several questions:
- What do my students need?
- How can my teaching meet the requirement of five standards for Foreign Language Learning-- Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons and Communities?

What do students need?

Analyzing students’ need is extremely important when a teacher prepares lesson plans. To obtain that information I use all or some of the following techniques; chatting with students, a questionnaire, require the students to write weekly logs, and communicating with students with modern tools such as Facebook and Twitter.

How to combine 5Cs in teaching?

5Cs are the general guide for foreign language teachers to design their curriculum. It’s like a blue print for teachers to bear in mind while teaching the language. I use a self survey diagram after each of my classes to check which of those standards I used from 1-5 points in the class. It gives me a better idea about what I’ve applied in the class and what I need to combine in the class.

In general, teaching Chinese is a rewarding job. If we as teachers enjoy it, that enables our students and keeps them motivated to learn.