When I first began learning English, I was taught by various teachers using different methods and I believe that they all contributed positively towards my learning English to a high standard. I started to learn English for academic purposes from the age of six but as my parents prepared me to go to school in England when I was eight years old, I was immersed in the language and the number of teachers increased therefore their methods differed from each other. As I learned of the different teaching methods in the TESOL programme, I could categorise the methods my past teachers had adopted to teach me English and in this essay I wish to discuss the methods I found most effective as a student.

When learning grammar, I recall that most of my teachers endorsed the Grammar Translation method (GTM). The teacher would teach me the grammar rules in an authoritarian style and would drill in the information until I understood then they would ensure I had absorbed the grammar by giving me homework where I was to repeatedly conjugate verbs in the correct tense. I believe this method is the most appropriate when teaching grammar to students as although the teacher talking time is extremely high, the drilling is effective and the grammar points can be taught accurately through repetition and practice. The method of repetition is overlapped with the Audio-Lingual method (ALM) which my teachers adopted when giving me speaking lessons. I would listen to my teacher reading me a dialogue in a set situation several times, and would parrot them until I comprehended the words and through this method we could role-play in different situations and themes and augment my vocabulary and speaking skills.

Role-playing and themed discussion were extremely important to me as a student as the emphasis on student to teacher interaction engaged me as a student and I could actively take part in the learning process and these techniques are linked to the Communicative Language Teaching method (CLT) which some of my teachers also used. Role-playing with various themes and following them up with appropriate discussions heightened my confidence when speaking in English in unfamiliar situations. However, I feel that the Total Physical Response method (TPR) also deserves a mention as this method allowed me to enjoy learning English through games such as Scrabble, hangman, Bingo and many more where the teacher let me be myself and have fun whilst absorbing English. I believe this method works brilliantly with young learners as well as adult learners because the students assimilate language information freely and independently.

In conclusion I believe that from my experience, to teach English effectively finding the correct balance of each methods mentioned above from the teacher’s part is essential having understood the students’ needs and potential. For me the language became more accessible and comfortable thanks to all the methods having improved my grammar, speaking, writing and reading appropriately and I am grateful for having met such effective teachers for each and every aspect and will aspire to become such an able teacher myself.