

## History of TEFL Synoptic Overview

Source and more information: Howatt, A.P.R. & Smith, R. 2014. 'The History of Teaching English as a Foreign Language, from a British and European Perspective'. *Language and History* 75-95. Open access: [ow.ly/BDOpX](http://ow.ly/BDOpX)

### Stage I: Modern Language Teaching in Europe (1750–1920)

#### 1. The Classical Period (1750–1880)

Core Concern: Emulating the teaching of classical languages

Associated Teaching Methods: [The Grammar-Translation Method]  
[The Classical Approach]

#### 2. The Reform Period (1880–1920)

Core Concern: Teaching the spoken language

Associated Teaching Methods: [various Reform Methods]  
(see *Jespersen (1904: 2-3)*)

The Natural Method (*Henness, Sauveur*)

The Berlitz Method

The Series Method (*Gouin*)

The Direct Method

### Stage II: English Language Teaching beyond and within Europe (1920–2000+)

#### 3. The Scientific Period (1920–1970)

Core Concern: Scientific basis for teaching

Associated Teaching Methods: The Oral Method (*Palmer*)  
The Multiple Line of Approach (*Palmer*)  
The Situational Approach (*Hornby*)

The Oral Approach (*Fries*)

The Audiolingual Method (*US*)

#### 4. The Communicative Period (1970–2000+)

Core Concern: Aiming for 'real-life communication'

Associated Teaching Methods: Communicative Language Teaching  
Task-based Language Teaching