INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the NCLRC's Web site for college and university language instructors!

How to use this site

We recommend that you start with What Language Teaching Is, which gives a general description of learner-centered instruction and reflective teaching practice. Use the other Principles sections to develop your understanding of language teaching methodology. Use the Practice sections for guidance on specific language skill areas.

What's on the site

- **Principles:** general information on language teaching theory and method. We believe that the best language teachers connect what they do in the classroom with a coherent, evidence-based idea of how people learn languages. This material helps instructors to make that connection.

- **Practice:** specific ways of applying theory in teaching grammar, listening, speaking, reading, writing, and culture. In these sections we address common concerns of language teachers and connect the material on this site with the ways language instruction takes place in actual classrooms and textbooks. For each topic we provide information on teaching goals and methods and guidance on developing learning activities, using textbook materials, and assessing laerners' progress.

- **Examples:** Examples in the text are drawn from English language teaching because English is the language shared by site users. We plan to add links to examples in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Russian, and Spanish as the site develops.

About the site

This site gives college and university instructors and teaching assistants an introduction to the language teaching methods that are currently used in U.S. universities. The content is based on the material in *Modules for the Professional Preparation of Teaching Assistants in Foreign Languages* (Grace Stovall Burkart, ed.; Center for Applied Linguistics, 1998). The site was developed for the National Capital Language Resource Center (NCLRC) by Catharine Keatley and Deborah Kennedy under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, CFDA #84.015A.

How to Cite the Site

If you quote material from this site, you must provide a citation. Here's how to do that:

National Capital Language Resource Center (NCLRC). (n.d.). *The essentials of language teaching.* Retrieved April 23, 2007 from http://nclrc.org/essentials.

Please note:
- This citation follows APA style. You will need to adapt it if you are using Chicago or MLA or another style sheet.
- For the date, substitute the most recent date on which you looked at the site.
- For the URL, substitute the exact URL of the page from the site that you are citing.