

# English Teacher Annual Award

## Eligibility & Criteria:

Candidates for the English Teacher Annual Award (Silkroad Top Teacher Prize) will be judged on a rigorous set of criteria to identify an exceptional teacher who has made an outstanding contribution to the profession.

## Eligibility:

The prize is open to currently Silkroad working teachers & international teachers who teach in all ages and levels. Silkroad teachers must spend at least 10 hours per week teaching English face to face in our institute.

The prize is also open to teachers in every kind of school, institute and kindergarten, all cities around Iran & all over the world.

## Criteria:

Applicants for the English Teacher Annual Award (Silkroad Top Teacher Prize) will be judged on a rigorous set of criteria to identify an extraordinary teacher who has made an outstanding contribution to the profession. Silkroad Educational Department will look for evidence of a combination of:

1. Employing effective instructional practices that are replicable and scalable to influence the quality of education (TEFL) in Iran.
2. Employing innovative instructional practices that address the particular challenges of the school, community, country, ... and which have shown sufficient evidence to suggest they could be effective in addressing such challenges in a new way.
3. Achieving demonstrable student learning outcomes in class.
4. Prepare their language learners for real life communication outside the class, even helping them become efficient citizens through providing value-based (social-religious) education that equips them for a world where they will potentially live, work and socialize with people from many different nationalities, cultures, religions, similarities and differences.
5. Improving the language teaching profession through helping to raise the bar of teaching, sharing best practice, and helping colleagues overcome any challenges they face in their working place.

The winner will be chosen by Silkroad International Instructors around the world.

This year the competition is national as usual and it will contain 2 phases:

1) In phase 1, the competitors must choose one of the following challenges, paraphrase the problem, elaborate how to solve that problem, and finally share their recommendations in a 5 minutes' clip.

Main challenges facing English teachers are:

**Why can't EFL programs deliver as expected?**

**What are the pedagogical challenges?**

**What is your exact challenge?**

- a. Improperly trained teachers.
- b. Inadequate teaching methodology.
- c. Teacher-centered rather than learner-centered activities.
- d. Student's aptitude, initial preparedness and motivation. School, institute and kindergarten teachers often complain of the low proficiency of their students. They also claim that students are not motivated to learn. The following are examples of teacher's comments on their students:
  - They can't learn.
  - They are uneducable.
  - They are incapacitated.
  - They are unable to think.
  - Writing is unteachable.
  - They are impolite.
  - They don't want to learn.
  - ....
- e. Compartmentalization vs. whole language approach.
- f. Lack of emphasis on developing skills-emphasis is rather on rote learning.
- g. Assessment methods.
- h. Lack of enough exposure to English.

- i. Our ultimate goal is to create autonomous language learners in 3 areas; including academic autonomy, social autonomy and liberator autonomy. Obviously, most teachers focus on making them academic autonomous, if they try hard, but the main challenge here is lack of enough effort to obtain the other two criteria of autonomous learners.
- j. Culture, policy, geography and learning environment in language learning.

Background, issues and implications such as:

- English is not taken seriously like other subjects at school.
  - Extremely hot weather in cities south of Iran. English lessons are after 7 in the afternoon or they are not able to have outdoor activities. So it's too hard to keep them active all the time inside the class.
  - Lack of appropriate relationship between teachers and students out of class.
- k. Having different levels in one class.
  - l. ANY OTHER CHALLENGE ....

2) In phase 2, the competitors must illustrate what they explained in phase 1 in a practical way (15 minutes).