Teaching changes lives
My name is Mohammed Tarabih Mosa. I have been teaching EFL since 1996. I taught in Egypt, Yemen and Oman. Currently, I’m teaching EFL in a governmental secondary school in Oman. My students are male teenagers who are in grade 12.
Many years ago, when I was a student I had no interest in English and I had never considered teaching as a career for me until a new English teacher came to teach us novels. I’ll never forget him. He was teaching us Charles Dicken’s *Hard Times*.

Our teacher did it in an interesting and lively way that we all loved the novel and remember most of the dialogues in it. He asked us to role play them. Each student was asked to study a character, learn its quotations well to act it in front of the class.
I enjoyed this way much. I was so proud when I was acting *Mr. Gradgrind*, that tough man who knows nothing but facts.

Since then I loved English language and became more interested in English novels and literature.

This led me to study English literature and this was the first step to become a teacher.
Teaching changes my students’ lives

Last semester, I had a class with a majority of weak students who had no interest in English at all. They produce limited language in the class as they lack both the skills and confidence to do so. They used to use their L1, Arabic, in the classroom and that was a challenge for me.

I asked, “Why don’t you speak English like me?”
“Because you are a teacher”, one of them replied.

And this was a turning point in my teaching attitude and in their learning attitude as well.
I told my students that I would give them the chance to become teachers if this will help them speak English.

“Let’s destroy the teacher”, I said to them. I mean here to destroy the routine image of the traditional teacher who does and controls every thing in the classroom.

I gave up part of my job to my students to be teachers. This student-centred attitude was so successful with my students in his class.
We agree that each lesson one of them will act as a teacher for half of the lesson. And he will be given the full authority of the teacher inside the classroom, but under one condition that he shouldn’t use his mother tongue, Arabic, in teaching.
A student has to prepare the activities he’ll teach at home; search the new language, prepare the learning aids he needs and be ready to answer his classmates’ questions.
It was a fantastic experience when my students started teaching their classmates. At the beginning, some of them were shy and reluctant to speak, but when they saw the positive interaction and encouragement from the other students in the class they became very motivated and improved.
Frankly speaking, I felt that those weak students were so interactive and responsive to their classmates than to me. But I was so happy since there’s positive change at the end.
The atmosphere inside the classroom was so relaxing and constructive. All the students were interacting and participating to help their classmate succeed. Consequently, they also succeeded and that was the change we aspired to.
Here, I’m going to talk about one example of my students who changed. This student (I named him Student 1), was teaching an activity about careers and job interviews.

He interviewed some students and asked them some questions about the jobs they are interested in. Here’s an example.
**Interview 1:**

Student 1: Which job are you interested in?

Student: Teacher.

Student 1: What does a teacher do?

Student: He teaches students.

Student 1: Why do you want to be a teacher?

Student: To be a good student at English like you.

Student 1: Wow! (All the class cheered). Great. I'm sure you will.
Students became more responsible, initiative and interested in learning. But what really fascinated me was the fact that they became a model for their colleagues who are highly motivated to change and to do better.
One day, a parent came to visit me at school and told me that he was surprised to see his son who was teaching his younger sisters English and was saying to them “Don’t speak Arabic. Speak English, please”. You can’t imagine how proud and satisfied I was!

Teaching had changed my life before it changed my students lives.

That’s why teaching changes lives