DIRECT STRATEGIES: WRITING

STRATEGY GROUP: Social

STRATEGY SET: Asking questions

STRATEGY: Asking for correction

This strategy takes place mostly in speaking because errors, which are most obvious to other people, occur in producing new language. Language learners should ask for correction for some writing difficulties, but the kind and amount of correction depends on the level of the learner and the purpose of the writing. Heavy-handed correction, especially in the beginning stages of language learning, can have two possible negative effects: students' morale plummets, or students' simply ignore the corrections. If advanced students are expected to create a polished written product, they might ask for a greater amount of correction, or at least a noting of problems which themselves can correct.

For example, Aurelius wants to improve his writing, so he ask the teacher to mark his most serious difficulties, for which he then tries to finds the correct form on his own. Felix asks his teacher for correction of the written phrases representing "date of birth, 16^{th} of April, 1959". The teacher says that no correction is needed.