

Classroom Tasks, Activities and Games to Adapt and Repurpose

<p>Interview Format can vary, i.e. two students interview each other, or set-up a roaming interview activity in which students have to interview a number of classmates. Tasks paired with the interview can vary - complete a form, complete a questionnaire, complete a survey on a particular topic, produce a paragraph or lengthier summary. Interviews can be scaffolded to fit the appropriate level and focus.</p>	<p>Student Presentations Students prepare a presentation on any topic - assigned or self-selected. The presentation can be augmented with visuals or not. The presentation can include a Q&A for interaction. Group student presentations add a communicative aspect to the presentation preparation. The pair or small group is assigned or self-selects the topic and then divides the presentation between them. This also gives the students the chance to interact while creating their presentation.</p>
<p>Form Completion Individual form completion for many different functions - can be based on real life types of forms one will encounter or class focused forms. A form collects information. Applicability: Apartment rental form, library card form, bank transaction forms, DMV forms, health information form, time-keeping form, vacation request form, employment forms.</p>	<p>WhatsApp WhatsApp can be used as a way to practice reading short messages and replying appropriately. This can be a homework activity via a class WhatsApp group. The WhatsApp channel is also a convenient way for the teacher to share class updates such as a cancellation due to weather or a reminder about special clothing to wear for a field trip.</p>
<p>Classroom Fair A gathering of multiple resources offering a venue for individual browsing and interaction, mini-tasks and group presentations. For instance health fair, job fair, safety fair, nutrition fair.</p>	<p>Skits Skits can be student-created or created in reaction to teacher provided prompts. Skits can help students who otherwise may be shy to participate. They offer strong communicative, speaking and listening skills practice. Fun!</p>
<p>Giving step-by-step instructions Describe how to do something, using discourse markers. In some applications of this activity, the other person can actually do the thing.</p>	<p>Write a letter This activity lets the student practice form as well as content in their writing. Letters can also be group-composed as a scaffolded activity. Ideas include - letters to one's family, to a child's teacher, to an official, to the landlord, thank you letter, or a cover letter to accompany a job application.</p>
<p>Sentence Sequencing /Jigsaw Teacher cuts up a paragraph into its component sentences. Students work together to reassemble in an order that makes sense. This can also be done at the sentence level.</p>	<p>Write an email Writing emails can be a real activity worked into the fabric of class communication, if all students have access to email. Students and the teacher can interact via email as a group and one on one. If students do not have email linked to their phones, or need to set-up a free email account, this can be an in-class tech task.</p>

Scavenger Hunt Create clues and teams. Students follow the clues to get to the next. Make the clue paths/chronology different so that teams do not follow each other. Requires reading, communication, interpretation and teamwork!	Write and send a text Like email, texts can be a communication method that the class uses regularly. Texts are well supported with automated spelling and word choice suggestions. So texting can be a great scaffolded learning tool while spelling and vocabulary is developing.
Map High tech or crafty. Students can map out their places of origin in a shared map, or perhaps places they want to go, or maybe places that they have to find on a map - including a local map.	Write a check to pay a bill Learning how to fill out a check correctly and enter the check in one's check register is an important financial literacy exercise. The teacher can provide the students with mock check books and this task can be combined with a paying bills task.
Poster Posters can be individual, pair or team projects. They are easily adapted to multiple topics. They can include graphics, artistry, realia, writing and photos. The presentation of posters can be a wandering event with one on one interaction, a display for individual browsing, or the foundation for an individual or team presentation. They are an excellent multi-day project.	Address an envelope Simple task that can be best learned through repetition and practice. In this activity, mechanics are important. How to set-up the envelope, clear and precise handwriting will impact the letter arriving at its destination and will make an impression to the sender when received. Students can address envelopes to each other and mail each other notes as a way to practice.
Station Tasks Set up stations around the classroom with different tasks at each station that the students circulate through in pairs or individually. Ideas - a unit's worth of stations across time, an afternoon of stations or a special event with stations. Going from station to station gets students moving and standing and engaging in a more hands-on way with activities.	Read a recipe and cook something The step-by-step format of recipes is a great way to utilize process markers - 'first, then, after that, next etc'. It can be very communicative if pairs or small groups actually cook together using a recipe. An additional activity involving recipes can be recipe creation by the students - documenting a favorite recipe they like to prepare from memory - in writing. Compile these for a class cookbook. Cook them all for a class feast with invited guests.
Receiving step-by-step instructions Follow the instructions given through verbal or written instructions to complete a task.	Make a shopping list This activity can be a precursor to an actual grocery shopping trip. This helps with vocabulary building and is also a useful home budgeting tool to practice.
Gap Information Students, in pairs or groups, work with different sets of information to complete the whole information set.	Make a budget Using mock paychecks and mock scenarios, students can decide how to apportion earnings to cover living needs. This is also a key financial literacy tool.
Show and tell	Leave a voicemail

<p>A classic! Students bring something to class and describe it. It can be anything. Classmates can ask questions to expand the conversation.</p>	<p>This activity can be low stakes by leaving voicemails for the teacher or other students. Or use a voice app such as Viber or WhatsApp to practice appropriate voicemails for various situations that the whole class can hear.</p>
<p>Charades Another classic! Students act something out, in response to a prompt on a card. Other students guess.</p>	<p>Buy things using cash Give money, make change and become familiar with jargon used as part of the check-out process in a store.. This can be a mock in-class activity for practice to support actual grocery shopping that is a fairly early and necessary life activity. It is also a vocational preparation activity.</p>
<p>Group write Sentence by sentence pass around, or verbal response to shared doc on screen turn by turn, or shared google doc with multiple users in the doc at once.</p>	<p>Visit a (mock) restaurant This activity will help students read a menu, order what they want, become familiar with the Q&A jargon of placing an order, ask for additional needs, pay their bill and calculate an appropriate tip.</p>
<p>Label Students label everything in the classroom. Label pictures of things. Can use this for nouns and adjectives describing those nouns.</p>	<p>Vocabulary Bingo Instead of letters - look for words on bingo boards. Traditional game of letters and numbers is good too!</p>
<p>Brainstorm This is a great scaffolding activity for almost any topic. It can be simple or complex. Use a white board or a shared google doc or sticky notes.</p>	<p>Interpreting graphics Q&A Weather reports, food sales flyers, timetables, any type of data that is delivered outside of a purely textual context requires practice to interpret the meaning.</p>
<p>Giving and following directions Help someone get from point A to point Z. Verbalize, draw, write. Q&A.</p>	<p>Role play In pairs, improv (or practice and improv) a role play as assigned or as chosen from various options.</p>
<p>Dialogue Pre-developed dialogues on a variety of topics give students an opportunity to become familiar with dialogues for typical situations. This develops reading and speaking skills and is a scaffolded precursor to developing their own dialogues to then perform in skits with classmates.</p>	<p>Rotating classroom responsibilities Task/chore chart (students can create) and then rotate through the items. The language portion of this task lies in negotiating and establishing the chore chart, and following the instructions of each newly assigned chore - becoming familiar with the related vocabulary through hands-on tasks.</p>
<p>Mini-writing In response to a daily prompt. The prompt can be set up to elicit a certain grammar structure in the response...or the prompt can be focused on the unit's theme. These can be created in advance as index cards that</p>	<p>Categories Students choose a category and the other students respond with words that belong to that category. The teacher can set this up to be a way to review and grow vocabulary relevant to the current or prior units</p>

students work their way through - initialling the back of the cards once they have completed that prompt.	
Create Flashcards Using index cards, make cards that describe new vocabulary words. Use pictures. Keep in a personal card index box.	Vocabulary Journal This daily activity can be an in-class recurring activity or it can be a homework activity. This gives students an opportunity to assemble and review new words or collocations over time in one location - separate from other class notes.
Share an Interest ~ recurring series This is essentially an opportunity for a student presentation, but since it invites the students to focus on a personal interest or passion, the sharing can take many formats, including a hands on demo. As a recurring element, the students can look forward to this sharing opportunity as it circulates through the student body on a particular day of the week etc.	Share my Culture ~ recurring series This is also an opportunity for a student presentation, but it invites the students to focus on their own culture. The sharing can take many formats, including a hands on demo, show and tell, food sharing, media etc. As a recurring element, the students can look forward to this sharing opportunity as it circulates through the student body on a particular day of the week etc.