

ACTIVITIES FOR ENHANCING ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING AND FUN IN THE CLASSROOM.

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Abstract

As English has become a global language with the teaching methodology has changed over the years to become more suitable for different types of learners, which include creating fun activities for enhancing English language learning. The article introduces the importance of teaching English that consists of a set of creative and fun activities inside the classroom to improve the student's English ability while being motivated to participate in the tasks. It also shows the role of these activities and their efficiency towards the students at different grade levels.

Keywords: English, classroom, activities, learning, fun

1. Introduction

Teaching English as a second language is becoming more and more important in developing countries and learning it is compulsory for almost every country. In Vietnam, English has been included in the main curriculum in secondary and high schools, and primary school. This has shown the importance of learning the language to Vietnam, because of the era of information explosion and trading development between Vietnam and other countries around the world. English also helps the EFL learners to get more access to the latest resources mainly written by English like technology, science and so on (Solanki D. Shyamlee, 2012). Furthermore, an EFL teacher should be the one who is always “updated” with new knowledge of the English language, to be able to express the information to his students using his interpretation and expression. Moreover, an EFL teacher is not only the person who guides his students to the new path of information but also the inspiration for his “children” to become ESL teachers one day (Ways of Motivating EFL/ ESL Students in the Classroom, teachingenglishforum.org.uk, 25/03/2021)

Being an EFL teacher is indeed a challenge to take on in any educational context. EFL teachers not only have to make a lesson plan that is appropriate for the classroom's general ability but they also have to draw attention and keep the students stay interested throughout the lesson (Solanki D. Shyamlee, 2012).. In order to reinforce the quality of teaching, teachers should design activities for language enhancement while staying focused and having fun in the classroom. Teachers take on a role of authority in the eyes of the students, which greatly influences pupils' learning process (Burns & Richards, 2009). Moreover, teachers observe classes that are taught by the traditional way with teachers using markers or chalks to explain and present the lesson on board. As a result, teachers might lose the students' interest halfway through the process. In terms of that tradition, it is a much more important matter that teachers should know what they are going to do and how well prepared they are for every class instead of just simply covering the units of an English course book. It is a matter of fact that teachers let the students have the expectation of learning while having fun in the classroom.

2. Activities for enhancing English language learning and fun in the classroom.

1. *Ten things*: the teacher will divide the classroom into groups of four or six students and make the groups choose their writer. After the teacher has given the categories, students will think and help their group to write down the words that related to the topic given then the writer writes on the board. The group with the most points at the end will win. (Mermelstein, 2016)

"Ten Things" is a fun game that gets students thinking, talking, and working together in EFL classroom. It is easy to prepare, and it is a fun and efficient way to enhance learning. (Mermelstein, 2016)

Teachers can also change this game into "Five things" with students whose vocabulary may be limited. The game can also be a warmup activity for students to work as a group prior to other group activities and it especially well with students to work with each other for the first time.

2. *Walking Cars*: the teacher will demonstrate by asking the students to pretend they are the "Walking cars" and giving commands such as: "Go straight", "Speed up", "Stop" for students to walk in place at medium pace, fast or stop at the exact position. Then the teacher will divide the students in groups of five or six and the student will choose one of them to say the commands for the rest in the group to follow.

Not only that it also gives them speaking practice and allows you to pay more attention to their pronunciation and comprehension. (Kevin McCaughey, 2013)

This activity can also be more challenging for the listening practice as we add more commands such as “turn left/right”, “park”,... for the student to react right away. It is a perfect way to let the student practice their speaking skill and reflex to english sentences as they need to change the position right away when they hear the commands.

3. *Sentence Bowling*: the teacher will prepare 30 pieces of paper which have 10 verbs, 10 nouns and 10 words of his or her choice. Put each of them in an envelope. Each envelope then will contain three cards—one of each type. Then arrange the bowls into the shape of a bowling alley. Under each bowl, place one of the envelopes containing the word cards. Divide the class into groups with a representative and that student will use a small object to throw in a bowl in any order, after every group has had their envelopes. they will try to form a sentence using the words in the envelope. Give the group a point for the correct usage of the vocabulary and a point for correct sentence structure.

The game can also be played with individual students, rather than groups, forming sentences. Teachers can also have more than three words for intermediate students or fewer words for lower level students. The groups can act out the sentence for the rest of the class to guess, which will be more enjoyable for the students, especially young learners. (Lowery, 2011)

This activity is suitable for almost every grade level but teachers need to prepare the material which is appropriate with the classroom’s ability. Teachers can also change some steps of the procedure in order to make the activity more enjoyable.

3. Conclusion

Teaching with activities for enhancing and having fun in the EFL classroom has been considered a better method for almost all grade learners especially young learners as they have a short focus span and a lot of physical energy. While they are doing the activities given by the teacher, they are also using the target language which the teacher wants them to practice. However, the process of making a lesson plan that is appropriate with a limited time and content will be difficult for teachers. But if they can identify the core knowledge to provide to the students then they can choose the most suitable activity for each classroom.

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