

Activities To Promote Speaking

Discussions

After a content-based lesson, a discussion can be held for various reasons. The students may aim to arrive at a conclusion, share ideas about an event, or find solutions in their discussion groups

Role Play

One other way of getting students to speak is role-playing. Students pretend they are in various social contexts and have a variety of social roles.

Simulations

Simulations are very similar to role-plays but what makes simulations different than role plays is that they are more elaborate. In simulations, students can bring items to the class to create a realistic environment.

Information Gap

In this activity, students are supposed to be working in pairs. One student will have the information that other partner does not have and the partners will share their information.

Brainstorming

On a given topic, students can produce ideas in a limited time.

Reporting

Before coming to class, students are asked to read a newspaper or magazine and, in class, they report to their friends what they find as the most interesting news.

Storytelling

Students can briefly summarize a tale or story they heard from somebody beforehand, or they may create their own stories to tell their classmates.

Story Completion

This is a very enjoyable, whole-class, free-speaking activity for which students sit in a circle. For this activity, a teacher starts to tell a story, but after a few sentences he or she stops narrating. Then, each student starts to narrate from the point where the previous one stopped.

One word story

This activity is extremely simple. Each student adds a word to create a group story.

Story in a bag

This oral story-creating and relating activity works best with intermediate level and above learners. To make this activity interesting, the objects should be diverse and unrelated to each other.

Playing Cards

In this game, students should form groups of four. Each suit will represent a topic. For instance:

- **Diamonds:** Earning money
- **Hearts:** Love and relationships
- **Spades:** An unforgettable memory
- **Clubs:** Best teacher

Each student in a group will choose a card. Then, each student will write 4-5 questions about that topic to ask the other people in the group.

Picture Narrating This activity is based on several sequential pictures. Students are asked to tell the story taking place in the sequential pictures by paying attention to the criteria provided by the teacher as a rubric. Rubrics can include the vocabulary or structures they need to use while narrating

Picture Describing Another way to make use of pictures in a speaking activity is to give students just one picture and having them describe what it is in the picture.

Find the Difference

For this activity students can work in pairs and each couple is given two different pictures, for example, picture of boys playing football and another picture of girls playing tennis. Students in pairs discuss the similarities and/or differences in the pictures.

Preposition basketball

This is a lively activity to practice prepositions of place: "Let's play basketball!"

Choose a spot in the classroom (a corner, the teacher's desk...) and place there several different objects (pens, rubbers, books etc) at random and a small box or a bag that represents the basket. Decide with your students how many points you will score if they send the ball (you can make a very simple ball with a piece of paper) into the basket

'Tap-In Debate'

The 'Tap-In Debate' is a fun way for students to discuss controversial topics. It is excellent for speaking and listening practice.

Basically, you need a controversial topic to start. The idea is that two students start the topic of conversation, trying to defend their group's point of view. Once started, you then tap any two students on their shoulders during the conversation (Always one who is in a hot seat and one who isn't) They must continue the sentence of the previous speaker exactly where the previous student in the hot seat left it!

Third conditional guessing game

This is a simple game for spoken practice of the third conditional. Ask a student, a volunteer hopefully, to leave the room. While that person is out of the room you and the rest of the class decide on something very unusual that could have happened while they were out of the room. A good example is two students get married, basically whatever the students can suggest. Then, the person who has left the room comes back in and asks each student in turn only one question and the full question is 'What would you have done if this had happened?'

And each student in turn answers in a full sentence for example, 'If this had happened, I would have bought some flowers'.