



Spolufinancováno  
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Erasmus+

## **Creative Methodology for the Classroom, Canterbury, UK**

**Here are some useful, easy to use activities for the beginning of foreign languages lessons. I have tried these activities both as a student at my course and as a teacher in my English classes.**

### **A) Activities for group processing, which help students perform within the group**

These activities are useful especially in newly formed groups of students.

#### **A.1 Two people, one pen(cil)**

This 5-7 minutes activity can be used with all levels of students and its focus is to strengthen collaboration between them.

1. Ask the students to work in pairs.
2. Explain that you are going to dictate a short text and they have to write it down on a piece of paper, both of them holding one pen or pencil.
3. After dictating the text (e.g. a short, 3 to 4 sentences from textbook), have them read the text to you.

#### **A.2 A hobby on my back**

In this 4-6 minutes activity students can find out more about their classmates' hobbies. You will need some post-it notes for this activity.

1. Give each student a blank post-it note.
2. Ask them to either draw or write the name of their hobby on the note and stick it on their back.
3. Ask the students to mingle and read each other's notes.
4. Hand out more blank post-its and invite students to look at some of their classmates' hobbies and write comments or questions on the blank post-its and stick them on the classmates' backs (e.g. *I like reading too. Do you have a favourite writer? ...*)

5. After some time stop the activity, ask the students to read all the notes from their backs and comment on them

### **A.3 Positive gossiping**

This is a good activity to strengthen good relationships among students.

1. Divide students into groups of three.
2. One student in the group sits with their back to the other two students. Those two students then “gossip positively” about the third one (saying nice things, praising, saying what they especially like about that person), so that he or she can hear them.
3. The person who has been gossiped about then reflects on what the other two have said.
4. Keep this activity long enough so that all students are gossiped about.

## **B) Priming activities**

These activities are best used at the beginning of a class to help students focus and get ready to work during the upcoming lesson. They might not present any language input, however, they require students to pay close attention and eliminate distractions they have brought to the class.

### **B.1 Countdown**

This 2-3 minutes pair work activity helps to eliminate distractions and get the students concentrate.

1. Explain that As must count from 1 to 60 (or 1 to 20 in lower level classes), and Bs must count down from 60 (20) to 1.
2. They must do the counting slowly, and they should start and finish at the same time.

### **B.2 Train**

This 5-7 minutes activity eliminates distractions and creates a sense of anticipation.

1. Give each student an A4 sized sheet of paper and ask them to draw a train on it.
2. Tell them to draw as many coaches as they want to.
3. Tell them to write in each coach what they are looking forward to in the lesson, e.g. vocabulary, song, game...
4. When they have finished, ask them to mingle and compare their trains.

### **B.3 Left or right**

This 10-15 minutes activity helps students deepen concentration.

Before the activity, choose a short text (maximum of three to five lines) to dictate to your students (a part of a text from the course book or a magazine ...)

1. Tell the students that you are going to ask them to do a few tasks but they can only use their non-dominant hand.
2. Ask them to draw a circle.
3. Ask them to draw a square.
4. Ask them to draw a triangle
5. Ask them to write down their full name.
6. Ask them to write the date.
7. Now dictate the short text you have chosen.
8. Ask the students to work in pairs and compare their work.

**Source: PUGLIESE, C. (2017) *Creating Motivation. Activities to make learning happen.* Helbing**