

Warm Up Activities

Warm up activities are used to make your classes more fun and exciting. They are great for getting students to move around and wake up if you notice that they all look a little tired. They are also used to make the subject that you are teaching a little more exciting and interesting. Feel free to email Vicky at vicky@intercambioweb.org if you have any other warm up activity ideas.

Here are some warm up activities to try with your students. All of these activities can be used for upper level students. However, some of these activities are too difficult for our lower level students. Each activity indicates what level the activity should be used for. The activities are divided into three categories: Vocabulary and Grammar, reading, and writing.

I. Vocabulary and Grammar

A. The Fly Swatter Game: *All levels*

This activity can be used with numbers, the alphabet, or with verb tenses. Write down as many numbers, letters of the alphabet letters, or present/ past tense words on randomly all over the board. Divide the class in to two teams. Choose a person from each team to come to the board and give them a fly swatter. Call out a verb, ex. Walked. The first person to swat the verb on the board, with the fly swatter, wins a point for their team. Continue the game by choosing other students to come up and play. You can choose a student to call out the number, letter of the alphabet, or verb instead of you calling it out all the time. Have someone keep score.

B. What Did You Do Game: *All levels*

This game is great for practicing the past tenses. Write commands on strips of paper such as: write in your notebook, stand up, walk around, dance, hop on one foot, etc. Give each student a slip of paper. Each student will act out what is on the slip of paper. Then have everyone ask all together: "What did you do?!!!" The student must answer in the past tense complete sentence. (E.G. I stood up.)

C. Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes: *All levels*

This game is great for teaching the body parts to beginning students. You probably know how it works, but in case you don't know, you can look the words up online.

II. Reading

A. Relay Reading Comprehensions: *Intermediate or Advanced Levels*

This can be used with any type of reading

1. Put your students in pairs of two or three.
2. Tape copies of the reading on the wall. Tape as many copies as there are groups.

3. Tell them that each team member has to run up to their reading on the wall and underline the statement that connects with the True/False statements from the previous activity. It works like a relay team. Whatever team finishes underlining all the statements first wins the game.

III. Writing:

A. A, B, C Story: *Intermediate or Advanced Levels*

Tell your students to take out a piece of paper and tell them that they can write a story about anything you want. Tell them that each line of the story must begin with the next letter in the alphabet. In other words, the first sentence must begin with 'A,' the second with 'B,' and so on. It is also possible to start with a letter in the middle in the middle of the alphabet like 'H.' Here is an example of such a story:

*Almost 300 years ago there lived a princess in a castle far away.
But her stepmother was an evil witch who was extremely jealous of the princess' beauty.
Carefree and fun loving, the princess never suspected that her stepmother would lock her in the highest tower of the castle.*

B. Once Upon a Time: *Intermediate or Advanced*

Tell your students to take out a piece of paper and start writing a story about anything they want. They must start their story with "once upon a time". Every four to five minutes fold your piece of paper showing only the last two lines they wrote. Then pass your paper to the person next to you. Continue this about five or six times. Then share the stories with the rest of the class

Other Activities

- Hokey Poky:
 1. Review parts of the body with the students by pointing to your own body and asking what's this and what are these. Since you are working with an advanced level, you can point some places where you think they might not know the name. examples: thigh, waist, hip, ankle, heel, wrist, palm, calf, eyebrows, etc.
 2. In advance have the hokey poky song written on the board
You put your_____ in, you put your_____ out
You out your_____ in, and you shake it all about
You do the hokey poky and you turn yourself around
That's what's it's all about, hokey poky
 3. Get your students in a circle and teach them the hokey poky. Try to get them to choose the body parts. Don't forget to include hips and shoulders, those are the fun ones

- If there is time, have students get out a clean piece of notebook paper. Assign each person something different to draw, using the present progressive form: ie. He is sleeping. Each person draws the picture in the very top of the paper, and passes their paper to the next person in the circle. That person looks at the picture and writes a sentence about what is happening (hopefully in this case, they write: he is sleeping). Then they fold down the paper so you can't see the picture and pass it to the next person. That person draws a picture about the sentence that is written, folds the paper so all you can now see is their words. It goes on and on like this, alternating between drawing and writing until you get back to the original person who started it. Then you unfold everything and see how the story changed or stayed the same.