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A Teacher's Dozen: Activities to Engage Your Learners





Warm Up Activities

Connection Questions

Ask questions related to the theme of the lesson to tap into prior knowledge and introduce the topic.

Writing Prompt

Put a picture or sentence starter on the board. Have students write words, sentences, or questions about the prompt.

Mind Map

Write a topic or idea on the board and ask students to list words that come to mind when they think of that idea.



Grammar

Is this sentence correct?

Write sentences on the board and have students find the parts that need to be corrected. Set a timer to add some competition.

Mix & Match

Have students put scrambled or split sentences together.

Use audio scripts from *Burlington Core*

Use sentences from role play activities

Annotate

Prepare a passage with grammatical errors (grammar skills previously taught) and have students identify all errors they can spot.



Pronunciation Practice Activities

Inside Out: Intonation Practice

Assign a student a specific emotion (excited, sad, etc.). Then have them practice reading a dialogue to convey that emotion.

Fun with Word Stress

Practice pronouncing new words and phrases along with clapping, drawing bubbles, and rubber bands to support different learning styles.

Choral Practice

Have students practice new vocabulary together. Model pronunciation for students.



Vocabulary Activities

Charades

Have students pull vocabulary words out of a hat and act them out for team members to guess.

Categories

Have students draw 6 columns on their page with headings for each column (examples: verbs, food, names). The teacher chooses a random letter and students write as many words as they can in each category.

Hot Seat

Have students review vocabulary and build their speaking skills with this interactive game.



Listening Activities

Stand Up If You Have Ever

Have students stand up when the sentences read aloud are true for them. Such as, "Stand up if you have ever eaten a maple donut." Have each student write sentences to be added; take turns reading them out loud while others listen and respond.

Simon Says

Call out instructions for students to follow. Have students take turns being "Simon."

Dialogue Practice

Have students sit back-to-back and practice a dialogue. Students can read from prepared scripts or write their own with a partner.



Reading Activities

Share an Interesting Point

Have students share something new that they learned from a text or have them add additional information about the topic based on prior knowledge.

Read Aloud

Have students take turns reading the text aloud to practice pronunciation and improve fluency.

Personalize a Text

Have students describe a situation in the text and share how it relates to them.



Writing Activities

Expand a Text

Have students rewrite the ending of a passage or add additional information to a text.

Caption This!

Show students a picture and have them write a story about the picture. Lower-level students can write words that come to mind. Higher-level students write with more complexity.

Writer's Workshop

Pair up students. Have them interview each other (about their family, interests, job, etc.) and write a paragraph about the other. Have partners swap papers to make corrections. Then, present to the class.



Speaking Activities

Conversation Groups

Create discussion groups for a variety of topics (book club, sports, cooking, etc.)

Mingles

Provide pairs of students with conversation starters. After 2-3 minutes, have students swap partners and choose a new conversation starter.

Small Talk

Teach and practice skills for engaging in casual conversation with classmates, neighbors, and others in the community.



Career Preparation Activities

Pick a Stick

Write the name of different careers on popsicle sticks. Have a student choose a stick and research information about the career.

Career Connection

Invite guest speakers from the community to talk about lesson topics.
Example: Invite a nurse when discussing visits to the doctor.

Mock Interviews

Have students role play a job interview.



Activities to Integrate Skills

Practice Wh- Questions

Present a picture or text. Have students write down as many Wh- questions as they can. Then, have students work in pairs to ask and answer each other's questions.

Dictation

Read a word, phrase, or passage aloud and have students write what they hear. Next, have students take turns reading the dictated word, phrase, or passage to the class.

Research Project

Have students research a topic online in pairs or individually, create a presentation, and share it with the class.



Digital Literacy Activities

Culture-based media project

Have students share information about their home country/culture by using digital tools to visually represent ideas. Project can be adapted for students with varying levels of digital skills.

Stay connected with students

Use digital communication tools (email, apps, message feature, etc.) to maintain a connection outside of class.

Introduce basic digital literacy skills

Teach students the basics about using a computer, keyboard, and mouse.



Multiple-Response Activities

Whip Around

Start with a question that can have multiple answers/responses. Set timer to 1 minute. Each person shares their response as you go around the room. *This can be done virtually too!*

White Boards

Supply each student with a whiteboard and marker. Have students hold up their whiteboards to show their responses or walk around the room to check individual answers.

Think-Pair-Share

Have students think about and write down their response to a question, discuss with a partner, then share with the class.



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