

**CREATIVE METHODS AT TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

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**Annotation:** The article is about teaching creative and interactive methods at teaching English. There are many ways of teaching English and their rules and instructions also. It includes types and interests of students.

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**Introduction.** There are many interactive and creative teaching methods at learning and teaching English language. From ancient time linguists had distinguished between creative and interactive methods at teaching English. Nowadays teaching English is important branch in our modern society. It's important but somehow difficult. First of all, we should answer to the question, why it is important but difficult? Because, as you know, if teachers can not choose right and creative methods at teaching language, then it will be their unforgettable mistake at their students' life. Because their students lose their interests and capabilities at learning languages. In that case, teachers must choose right and creative teaching methods. It depends on students interests, degrees of them and also subjects.

In linguistics and teaching English, there were a lot of theoretical teaching methods, such as:

1. Communicative language teaching (CLT)
2. Task-based language teaching (TBLT)
3. Content and language integrated learning (CLIL)
4. Cooperative Language Learning (CLL)
5. The Direct Method
6. Grammar-Translation
7. Audiolingualism
8. Total Physical Response
9. The Silent Way
10. The Natural approach and etc.

These methods were more common and useful for teachers and learners. But nowadays, some of them boring for modern learner. Many teaching and learning methods in modern linguistics and teaching English language. Now we will identify some of them which are more comfortable and useful to future teachers.

**Peer Teaching: Learning Together, Growing Together.** Peer teaching fosters a sense of shared responsibility and collaborative learning. As students take the lead in teaching English lessons, they not only consolidate their understanding but also build crucial life skills like leadership and empathy. It fosters a community-centric learning environment where students can learn from each other's unique perspectives and understanding, thus making the process of English language acquisition more collaborative and enriching.

**Music and Songs: The Symphony of Words.** The rhythm and melody of music can make language learning an enjoyable and memorable experience. By integrating songs into English lessons, we can tap into students' emotional engagement and enhance their language retention. This harmonious blend of language and melody allows students to associate words and phrases with catchy tunes, thereby promoting longer-term memory retention.

**Debate and Discussion Activities: The Arena of Thoughtful Dialogue.** Debates and discussion activities bring the vitality of public discourse into the classroom, providing students with a platform to express their thoughts and learn the art of persuasive communication. They encourage students to critically analyze topics, formulate logical arguments, and present their views coherently, thereby honing their English language skills.

**Gamification: Playing the Game of Words.** Game on for English learning! By transforming learning activities into games, we can flip the switch on student motivation, engagement, and achievement in English classes. The idea of 'learning through play' is not just for kindergarten anymore. From vocabulary building games to interactive online quizzes, teachers are gamifying English lessons to motivate students and make learning enjoyable. A study conducted at a private university in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, it was concluded that the results showed a change in the behavior of the gamified group showing a significant improvement in the accuracy of students with personality traits.

**Drama and Role Play: The Stage of Learning.** When it comes to language learning, the world's indeed a stage. Drama and role-play activities inject energy and enthusiasm into English classes, allowing students to walk in the shoes of different characters, experience varied situations, and learn empathy along with language skills. By immersing themselves in these theatrical experiences, students develop not only their language proficiency but also their creativity, confidence, and the ability to think on their feet. Through drama and role-play, the English classroom transforms into a dynamic and interactive stage where students can actively engage with the language and develop a deeper understanding of cultural nuances.

**Project-Based Learning: Crafting the Towers of Knowledge.** With project-based learning, students are the architects of their learning journey. They're engaged in real-world tasks that have tangible outcomes, applying English skills in context. It harnesses the power of creativity by offering students the freedom to explore a topic in depth and express their understanding in innovative ways. Through collaboration and problem-solving, they not only learn to apply their English skills in a meaningful context but also learn to communicate effectively, giving their language acquisition process a practical dimension.

**Multicultural Lessons: The Melting Pot of Languages.** Many cosmopolitan cities offer a unique opportunity for multicultural lessons. English, as a global language, serves as a link among varied cultures. In teaching English, exploring multiculturalism doesn't only make lessons more interesting but also instills respect and understanding among diverse students. Integrating elements from different cultures into English lessons can create a rich tapestry of learning experiences that expose students to a variety of perspectives and traditions. It allows learners to see English not just as a language, but as a bridge that connects cultures, fostering a global mindset and enhancing their intercultural communication skills.

**Repeat previous lessons in every class.** Assuming the average class duration is only an hour or less, that leaves a whole lot of time in the day to forget everything a student just learned. Children won't retain as much information as adults, so repetition is key in English for young learners. Rather than calling case closed at the end of a lesson and moving on after a test, be sure to pack every class with tons of repetition from lessons before. This also helps students to use vocabulary and grammar points all together, rather than depend on the same example sentences and templates they learn isolated in each lesson.

**Field Trips and Real-world Learning: Turning the World into a Classroom.** The best learning often happens outside the confines of the classroom. Field trips serve as an excellent medium to link classroom instruction with real-world experiences. They expose students to various contexts in which English is used, allowing them to observe, interact, and apply their language skills in

authentic settings. Whether it's a trip to a museum, a news agency, or a theater, these excursions foster a deeper understanding of the language's practical applications.

**Storytelling: Penning down the Adventures of Knowledge.** "Once upon a time", there was the age-old practice of storytelling, and its charm hasn't faded away. This magical method can be transformed into an effective pedagogical tool, especially in the realm of language acquisition. By integrating stories into lessons, we create an immersive environment that captures students' imagination, making English learning a thrilling adventure rather than a dull task.

**Teach vocabulary with Flashcards.** Digital Flashcards help your students to memorize vocabulary and practice for exams. Create and share flashcards decks; Add pictures for visual aid; See students' progress. **Thematic teaching methods** - across the 4 skills. The use of a thematic approach organizes subject matter around a unifying theme allows students to make important connections in their learning and understand more of the four skills. By planning thematic units, the teacher is able to incorporate a variety of language concepts into an interesting topic area which gives students a reason to use the language.

Themes and lessons should integrate language, content, and culture into activities that allow students to practise the language and that prepare them to use it in a variety of contexts. Ultimately, students need to be able to interpret the language, express themselves in the language, and negotiate meaning in the language (Savignon, 1997). Visuals and manipulatives, gestures, sounds, and actions all help students understand the new vocabulary and structures.

Weave in spontaneous or consistent dialogues throughout the lesson. What did you do this weekend? By kicking off class with an expected question, you can get your students thinking about what they'll say long before class even starts. Natural dialogue also introduces students to everyday vocabulary relevant to their own lives and interests. If you're working with a class, rather than a single student, you can also sprinkle in some side conversations with students as they work diligently on differentiating between I and me. Ask what's for lunch, how the last soccer game went, or anything at all that gets them excited to share.

**Create a List of Grammar-Based Apps** – Teaching students the concepts of grammar and composition is less about theory and more about practice. The number of hours they spend in your class is limited, but they're likely to have 24/7 access to a smartphone, tablet or laptop – use this to your advantage.

Leverage the power of web-based tools, by creating a list of the best apps and games that can be used for teaching English. Share these with your students to help them build their vocabulary, explore interactive platforms for learning, and improve their grammar through constant practice and exposure.

**Maximize the Potential of Online Tools** – Use smart classroom technology to monitor students' progress, encourage them to try out online learning tools and interact with English speakers on social media platforms etc. These unconventional methods of teaching resonate with young students who are completely at home on the web.

The Internet offers a practically endless array of reading material for students learning English, right from free e-books and stories to social media content, translation tools and blog posts. While speaking a language is important, reading allows students to grasp concepts autonomously and build their vocabulary faster.

**Build an Inspirational Study Environment** – Don't expect your students to get excited about learning if the classroom environment isn't designed to inspire them. There are a number of ways to boost the learning appeal of a certain space, so get creative and set up a zone that encourages and motivates students.

**Use Self- and Peer-Assessment for Motivation** – Everyone learns at their own pace, but no one can resist the chance to mark someone else's work or their own. This form of assessment allows

students to grasp the values behind a certain concept, as well as understanding where they could improve. Reviewing each other's work and their own helps boost confidence in their abilities as well as motivate them through healthy competition. Guide them through the process with a marking model, and encourage them to look for examples of grammatical concepts that they may need to practice more.

**In conclusion**, creativity, understanding and encouragement will go a long way towards establishing rapport with our students and towards learning the English language. Using task-based learning to teach English does not fall into the well-tried comfort zone of traditional teaching. The average teacher feels comfortable with the prescribed textbook. The introduction of task-based learning into the classroom may bring about the fear that 'there is no teaching going on'. This unfortunately denies students the opportunity to immerse themselves in the English language. It is necessary that teachers try using other materials as a teaching resource. The language of communication is real-life or authentic and un textbook-like in design. By incorporating handson projects into their everyday language classroom, teachers are preparing students to enter the real world. Teachers can create a non-threatening environment to encourage both shy and talkative students to participate. In short, teachers can help students catch the passion for learning English.

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