

ESL Expat

ESL Speaking Activities



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4 Corners

ESL Speaking Activity

What should you prepare before class?

- Think of some discussion topics for your students.

4 Corners

- Draw a rough layout of your classroom on the board.
- Label numbers 1 to 4 in each corner of the class layout.
- Designate a discussion topic for each number.
- Assign each student in the class a number from 1 to 4.
- Students go to their number in the classroom.
- They discuss the topic for a few minutes. Lead feedback.
- Students go to another corner and discuss the next topic.
- Continue until all four topics have been discussed.

Movie Trailers

ESL Speaking Activity

What should you prepare before class?

- Create a chart on a document with different categories.
- The first category column should be “Movie Title”.
- For the other categories, write different headers, such as:
 - Genre, Actors, 5-Star Rating, or Theme etc.
- Find some movie trailers online.
 - You can find lots of trailers on YouTube or Apple’s site.

Movie Trailers

- Have the students discuss their favorite movies.
 - Try to elicit different movie genres.
- Hand out the chart that you prepared to the students.
- Play one of the movie trailers and model the activity.
- Fill out every category on the chart, including:
 - the movie’s title, genre, actors, and star-rating etc.
- Play the other trailers. Students perform the same tasks.
- Lead feedback after watching each movie trailer.

Chopstick Topics

ESL Speaking Activity

What should you prepare before class?

- Buy a bunch of cheap wooden chopsticks.
 - Or you can find a similar object at a dollar store.
- Write different topics on the ends of the chopsticks.
- Topics could include anything, such as:
 - Music
 - Travel Destinations
 - Restaurants
 - Sports etc.

Chopstick Topics

- Divide the class into pairs or small groups.
- Take out a chopstick and read the topics on it.
- Model the task and discuss the topic with a student.
- Next, give a different chopstick to each group.
- Students discuss the topics on the sticks for a few minutes.
- Lead feedback then rotate the chopsticks.
- Students complete the same tasks with their new topics.

Movie Predictions

ESL Speaking Activity

What should you prepare before class?

- Find a movie or TV show that your students would like

Movie Predictions

- Introduce the movie and its characters.
- Play the first 30 seconds of a scene, then pause the video.
- Model the task. Predict what will happen next.
- Unpause the video and play the remainder of the scene.
- Pause it again. Discuss if your predictions were correct.
- Play the next scene. Press pause again after 30 seconds.
- Students then make their own predictions.
- Continue the activity in this way for the rest of the movie.

Funny or Die

ESL Speaking Activity

What should you prepare before class?

- Find some content from the Funny or Die website.
 - The 21 Best GIFS of All Time series usually works well.
- Create a document with two columns and several rows.
 - On the left column, label the header “GIF Description”.
 - On the right column, label the header “Ranking”.

Funny or Die

- Have students discuss the funniest or strangest thing that they have watched online.
- Hand out the document that you prepared.
- Model the task. Scroll down to the first GIF.
 - Write a description of what you just watched.
 - Rank the first GIF from 1 to 5.
 - Explain why you thought it *was* or *wasn't* funny.
- Show the other GIFs. Students do the same tasks in pairs.
- Lead feedback after they have watched all of the GIFs.
 - Or you could lead feedback at different intervals.
- Encourage students to give explanations for their answers.
- At the end, the class can vote for the funniest GIF.

Movie Idioms

ESL Speaking Activity

What should you prepare before class?

- It takes some time to prepare content for this activity.
- Find some videos clips that have idioms in the dialog.
 - You can find content on sites like YouTube or Netflix.
 - Search sites like QuoDB.com for idioms in movies.
- Make a list of the idioms from the videos that you found.

Movie Idioms

- Write an idiom on the board from one of the videos.
- Explain the literal meaning of the idiom.
- Model an example sentence using the idiom.
- Introduce the video clip that you will play.
 - Give them some background about the characters/plot.
- Play the video.
- Students must listen for the idiom used in the dialog.
- They should write down the exact sentence with the idiom.
- Lead feedback.
- Write the correct sentence on the board with the idiom.
- Students then create their own sentences using the idiom.
 - They can practice using it in writing and speaking.
- Write a new idiom on the board.
- Complete the same tasks with the next video clip containing the new idiom.

Cup Pong

ESL Speaking Activity

What should you prepare before class?

- Plastic or paper cups
- Ping pong balls
- Prepare some questions in English related to:
 - your students' textbook
 - grammar
 - vocabulary
 - or any other language skills

Cup Pong

- Divide the class into teams.
- Assign one cup per student (or team).
- Set up the cups and play.
- Students answer a question when a ball lands in their cup.
- Use the questions that you prepared before class.
- Keep track of points on the board.
- Adjust the game rules to suit your students.