

I'm not a robot



EsL speaking activities online

Looking for creative ways to engage ESL students in online conversations can be achieved by repurposing traditional classroom activities, such as using hand puppets or displaying images with intriguing situations. Students can create dialogues between their hand puppets or partners across Zoom breakout rooms, allowing them to practice speaking without feeling too shy. This activity can also be used as a model for text, supporting the learning of grammatical forms like 'must have', if/would (3rd conditional), present perfect continuous and simple, future simple. Another effective way is to use images, such as selecting ten pictures and telling a story using all of them. Students can then brainstorm verbs related to each picture, revising the past tense form before creating their own story involving the images. This activity helps practice past tenses. For higher level students, diagrams from sources like Google Images or IELTS academic writing task 1 can be used to explore technical vocabulary and the passive voice. Students can also engage in planning out stories using Storyboardthat.com, bringing their creations to life with characters and props. More interactive than using pictures, this approach involves giving students a title to create a story from. A general title such as "The Mysterious Manor" works well, but it's essential to outline the basic components of a story: setting, problem, solution, and ending. This encourages students to think creatively while following a structured format. To practice specific skills like letter recognition or number sequencing, you can create a copy of a Battleships board on Google Docs. Students work in pairs, guessing word locations and earning points for correct answers. The words they find must be spelled correctly, defined, and used in context. For a more comprehensive activity, divide students into pairs using Zoom breakout rooms. Each student receives an excerpt from an online article and summarizes the main points in bullet form. They then explain their summary to a partner who takes notes, promoting active listening and comprehension. A heartwarming idea is to ask students to share items with deep personal significance on screen, explaining why they hold these objects dear. This not only fosters empathy but also encourages critical thinking about the stories behind everyday objects. I discuss various locations and share related stories with students, encouraging them to find their own objects to display and present to the group. You can give it a theme, such as showing something that brings back childhood memories or makes you feel lucky. This is an easy way to facilitate conversation classes. It might seem boring at first, but students need to focus and think in English throughout the class, making it engaging. Don't dismiss this method as too simple, especially for advanced students who often enjoy the free chat. You can get decent lists from esldiscussions.com or take recent and relevant debate topics that match students' interests. Demonstrate the required language and give students time to prepare their points and think about potential arguments from their opponents. Another activity involves taking two articles, removing keywords from one copy's even-numbered paragraphs and another copy's odd-numbered paragraphs. Hand out the articles to partners, and have them fill in the blanks by asking questions. You can use premade materials from teachthis.com or IELTS speaking task 2 and 3 resources. For students aiming to achieve a certain level in exams like IELTS and TOEFL, you can use free preparation materials to guide conversation lessons. IELTS speaking tasks 2 and 3 are particularly useful for providing feedback using the IELTS speaking band criteria and helping students improve. You can also look at YouTube videos to see how IELTS tests are conducted. Looking forward to implementing the Cambridge English IGCSE ESL resources in our teaching practice. The conversation questions provide a great opportunity for students to engage in discussions, and the marking criteria offer valuable feedback for progress monitoring. An alternative Speaking Task 2 activity involves assigning roles for presenting news shows, such as news presenter, roving reporter, or eye witness, allowing students to work individually or in small groups. Students can create reviews of books or movies by following a review structure and language used in examples. To enhance engagement, consider incorporating YouTube videos on book or movie reviews. Giving students time to prepare presentations allows them to practice their speaking skills. Some teachers prefer individual sessions before presenting to the group, while others opt for creating actual videos that can be shared with peers. For an interactive activity, introduce a mock crime scenario where students must develop alibis for a suspect and defend their stories against police interrogation. This encourages critical thinking and teamwork. To facilitate collaboration, consider using Zoom breakout rooms. The computer provides a unique opportunity for students to engage in creative dialogue without feeling self-conscious about their appearance. A simple exercise is to ask students to create a conversation between their hand puppets or with a partner using Zoom breakout rooms. First, have students rearrange the dialogue as a group or individually, then read it out loud between their own hand puppets. Next, present them with a similar situation and encourage them to use the original dialogue as a model for writing new text. Displaying pictures of unusual situations sparks imagination and encourages discussion about what happened before and after each image. You can award points for the most realistic, creative or humorous explanation. This activity serves as a fluency practice exercise and can also be used to drill down on grammar. Additionally, you can use images to tell a story by selecting ten pictures and using them all in sequence. Examine the pictures with students and brainstorm verbs that could relate to each image. Then, revise the past tense forms of each verb and ask students to come up with a story involving all the pictures. To make it more engaging, allow students to change three images themselves. For higher-level students or those interested in research projects, you can assign technical diagrams from IELTS academic writing task 1. This helps practice the passive voice and technical vocabulary while explaining each phase of a process. Storyboardthat.com is another great resource for students to plan out stories with characters and props. A collection of questions for your partner about English conversation class. While this might seem dull to you, it's actually engaging when you're the student. It requires focus and concentration to think and speak in English continuously. Here are some useful lists: esldiscussions.com provides decent topics, matched to students' interests. Demonstrate required language and give them time to prepare their points. Ensure they consider opposing arguments. Another easy activity is to remove keywords from an article, then hand it out to partners. They'll need to figure out what questions to ask each other to fill in the blanks correctly. You can find premade materials at teachthis.com. Many students aim to achieve a certain level in speaking exams like IELTS and TOEFL. These popular exams offer free preparation materials that can be used in conversation lessons. I particularly like using IELTS speaking tasks 2 and 3, which involve discussing given topics or abstract concepts. You can provide feedback using the IELTS speaking band criteria and help students improve. The Cambridge English IGCSE ESL also provides well-structured conversation questions with marking criteria to monitor progress. Students can create their own news show based on various topics such as crime, natural disasters, or finance, and present it to the class. They can break down a real-life news show and learn from its structure and language. Before presenting, students should have a clear role in the presentation and engage with each other's roles. The teacher can also review YouTube videos of book/movie reviews to understand their format and language. For a fun exercise, create a scenario where an evil crime occurs on school grounds, and students must come up with an alibi for themselves and a partner within 10 minutes. The pairs are then interviewed individually by "police officers," who look for inconsistencies in their stories. This activity encourages teamwork, critical thinking, and communication skills. It also gives students experience with recording and editing videos, making it an engaging way to practice public speaking and language skills.