

## Try These Games and Activities in Your Class

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“How can I make my classes interesting?”

“Are there activities for making students more enthusiastic?”

These are questions often asked by teachers in myriad schools. Fortunately, there does exist a number of activities and games that could make classroom teaching stimulating and motivate students to learn better so why not take a look?

### 1. RUNNING DICTATION

A Running Dictation is an exercise where students run to read a text pinned up on the board and then run back to pass on the message, sentence by sentence to a partner who writes the passage down. The pair that finishes first with the least number of errors is declared the winner.

The pinned up text can be a story, a poem, an article or any paragraph from the textbook or a storybook.

This exercise stimulates listening, develops reading proficiency and improves spoken and writing skills with the help of kinaesthetic.

### 2. PICKLED CHARADES

Dumb charades? Haven't we all played them but here are a few with a difference!

The teacher writes nouns on slips of paper recently taught in class or from a lesson. The slips are then folded and kept in a box. Each student picks up a slip and has to act out a series of mixed dumb charades for helping his classmates guess the 'word' that he has picked. For example, in the noun 'sundial' the word 'dial' can be mimed while 'sun' can be partially drawn on the board or shown through craft. Once the students correctly guess the word, the teacher can explain what a sundial means.

This multi-skilled activity promotes kinaesthetic, imagination, comprehension, quick thinking and drawing skills.

### 3. DRAWING INSTRUCTIONS

The teacher makes a simple drawing on a chart paper and stands with his back to the board.

A student-volunteer is called to the board. The teacher now shows the drawing to the class but not to the volunteer.

The students, one after the other verbally instructs the volunteer to accurately reproduce the teacher's drawing on the board. It is to be noted that each student can only use one sentence at a time.

This activity creates greater student involvement and develops clear instructional skills.

### 4. BALL WORD GAME

Vocabulary can be enhanced or revised by using this simple ball game.

The teacher throws the ball at a student who catches it and has to say a word. The ball then gets passed on to the others and whoever has the ball is obliged to say a word. Anyone repeating a word or failing to come up with one during a stipulated time frame is considered 'out of the game'.

To make this game more difficult for students of higher classes or capabilities, the teacher could play 'Word Antakshari'. This time, the

teacher holds the ball, says a word and passes the ball around. The student who has the ball has to come up with a term starting with the last letter of the word told by the 'ball thrower' and the game thus continues.

The subject teachers can use this game thematically for revising specific vocabulary taught during class. For example, in a Geography class, the ball game could be used for revising terms such as hemisphere, earth, heat, troposphere etc...

This stimulating word ball game encourages students to expand their vocabulary and revise terms learned in class.

## 5. GUESS THE STORY

Teachers need to use a 'pre' before the start of any lesson or activity. This will not only enthuse students but also make them familiar with unfamiliar terms or words. For example, in the story about a clever flock of birds that manages to fly away by carrying with it the hunter's net used as a trap, the teacher could use the following pre-activity. A feather, a piece of net and a few grains could be brought into the classroom, hidden in a box. The teacher could then ask the students to guess what is inside by giving them a few hints. Once the guessing game is over, the objects could be displayed on a table and the students could be encouraged to imagine, tell, write or draw a story. The teacher could then narrate the actual story to her class by using the right expression, voice modulation and mimes.

Pre-activities act like warm-ups and make students enthusiastic and attentive. They also familiarise students with unknown or difficult words by aiding comprehension and developing imagination.

## 6. MIXED ACTIVITY BAG

Running dictations, picked charades, ball antakshari and story riddles have been tried out in myriad classrooms with a variety of students. The reactions from the participants have been encouraging. Teachers have expressed satisfaction after using these games and have also noticed a significant improvement in the language competency of their students. If these teachers are happy trying out new activities, why can't you do it, too? By doing so, the answers to the above two questions may get answered and who knows? Teaching could become so much more fun and stimulating!

**Category:** Classroom Resources

**Subject:** Arts

Language

**Board:** All boards

**Grade/Standard:** Class 1-2

Class 3-5

Class 6-8

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