

Tips and things

- Start with an aim/focus/theme
 - Decide whether what you use is an activity (i.e. short/one-phase) or a task (more than one phase/involves pairs/groups)
 - Add variations (the sections listed as a), b), etc. are variations/extensions
 - The tasks listed below can be used as core items or prefaced or expanded further, e.g. vocabulary, grammar, etc.
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1 Variations on a theme: The hook

Holiday hook

Draw a circle on the board with hooks/lines around it (e.g. 10), and write Holidays in the centre of the circle

Ask students for words/expressions related to holidays/or things you should always pack in your suitcase for a holiday; give new words when prompted. Write the words on the hooks on the circle.

- a) Use the words to practice a new/revise structure, e.g. have you packed the camera?
Yes, I've packed it/no, I haven't packed it yet
- b) Pairs create a dialogue based on lost property office/fill in a form
- c) Extension: or set for homework

One-word weekend hook

Draw a circle on the board with hooks/lines around it (e.g. 10), and write One-word weekend in the centre of the circle.

Ask each student to describe how they will spend the weekend in one word, e.g. party

Write the words on the hooks on the circle.

Each student writes 6 short notes (about the event) e.g. 21st birthday; new outfit; present etc.

In pairs, each student tries to reconstruct/guess in detail what the other person how the partner will be spending the weekend. The other student must say when the information is incorrect until the partner guesses the correct information. Swap over.

Topic hook

Draw a circle on the board with hooks/lines around it (e.g. 10), and write a current topic/concept/issue in the centre of the circle, e.g. Brexit

Ask each student to give a word/short phrase related to the topic.

Write the words on the hooks on the circle.

Ask each student to select one of the hooks.

- a) Put all students with the same topic hook in one group, so you have e.g. 4 groups of students who have each selected the same hook
- b) or groups of students who have each selected a different hook

Each student in the groups must prepare a 1- 2 min presentation on the topic hook.

Each group then gives their presentations on the topic hook - either a) version or b) version

A Q & A session/discussion follows each set of presentations.

The other groups give their presentations and the whole sequence is repeated.

Ask each group to give a brief summary of all the arguments heard.

Follow-up: write up

Pick and mix

Set up groups of 4-6 students each assigned a letter, A, B, etc.

Each group chooses 6 verbs/nouns/adjectives/ a place/at time/ 2 characters, e.g. famous people or students in the class.

- a) each group makes up a story/dialogue – speak and write – using the selected elements
- b) re-group the students – all A's, B's together and each retells/compares their story/dialogue to the new group

Running dictation + discussion

Select a 5 - 6 line text/summary of a) a controversial topic or b) topic with new or surprising information, preferably with new vocabulary and/or structures.

Set up a running dictation

Discuss new vocabulary/structures

Set up small groups to discuss the topic, e.g. pros, cons, etc.

MyQuestion Time

Students need to be familiar with the QT programme/format

Set up groups of 4-6 students

Select points in a QT programme where members of the audience ask their question

Play the audience Q, pause the recording, students each give their response to the Q

- a) move on the next audience Q and repeat the sequence
- b) or play the panel responses, pause and get students to comment/respond as a whole class

Extension: write up views expressed in the groups

*On BoB.net, you can view the transcript/points where Qs appear; the transcript can be shown to students for language points, etc.

Dictagloss + Discussion

Set up pairs or groups of 3 - 4 students

Select a 5 - 6 line text/summary of a) a controversial topic or b) topic with new or surprising information, preferably with new vocabulary and/or structures.

Students will listen to two/three dictations of the text during which they can each write only 6 words.

Students then work together to re-create the text from memory/words noted. A time limit can be set.

Students compare versions before you show the correct version

Discuss new vocabulary/structures

Students discuss the topic, e.g. pros, cons, etc.

Extension: Write-up views on topic

My favourite keepsake/object

Before the next lesson, ask students to:

- a) send you a picture of their favourite keepsake
- b) bring their favourite keepsake to class

They should consider the Qs: why, where, who, what, when so that they can talk about it in the next class. They should keep the object a secret.

- a) Paste photos of the objects on one sheet/grid to show on the visualiser
- b) Students bring their object to class

Set up small groups of 3-4 students.

Show the sheet of objects on the visualiser or students place their object on their desk.

- a) Each student talks about their object without saying what it is. Others guess the object and/or ask questions/talk about the choice of object.
- b) Each student talks about their object. Others ask questions/ talk about the choice of object.
- c) Write up