

Marjorie Rosenberg

Making lessons memorable

Notes

By making lessons creative, the learning experience can make the students braver especially if you let them create a fantasy identity.

Students can create a story based on a series of pictures or a song.

Passing information about each other but changing it before passing it on to the next student - personal but creative and keeps the learner alert and it can be fun.

Make lessons relevant to what's happening in the world - vocabulary that is familiar through news but difficult to understand. The vocabulary can be more easily contextualised and purposeful.

You also have real-life, instant examples to illustrate new words

Bring in a guest - someone new who they can ask questions about.

Getting students to present on topics of interest can also give them a real world context for new language.

Get the students to provide the topics which can then lead to gathering the vocabulary and then set up a debate. Use a dice to make it more challenging - 1, 3 and 5 rolls can be used for negative arguing, 2, 4 and 6 for positive arguing.

Pick a photo from their phone and encourage the others to ask questions about it - personal, fun and engaging for the learners.

If lessons are fun then it's very useful - jokes are memorable and hilarious and thought-provoking. Oxygen for the brain.

Silly answers – promotes critical thinking.

Guess things about each other. Guessing what objects are if they can't see or hear.

Memory games and cartoons.

Put cartoon pictures together to tell the story.

Use jokes to find pairs - ham, let

Caption picture writing

The more variety the better - different forms of input and output. Show picture or play a piece of music or read something. Then encourage them to answer in different ways - speaking, writing, miming.

Mix up your methodologies

Encourage learners to work together and not always in the same groups.

Gap text with cards - give the lyrics of a song to the students but with verbs removed and put on cards.

Learners will remember lessons better if they are relevant to real life, use their imagination and creativity, allow them to store in different ways (visual, auditory, kinesthetic), let them take something out of the classroom that they have to use in the real world. Let them experiment and play with the language and get them to engage online - many useful websites to look at but also feedback by email and messaging.