

Classroom Management

Teacher Talk

Establish a routine in your classroom by being consistent with the phrases you use during lessons. Whether you are new to teaching or looking for some fresh ways to express yourself, here are some English phrases you can use to greet and praise children, introduce ideas, or manage the class. Try to choose phrases that best match your needs and your children's abilities. Consistently using these phrases will help children learn and understand them. And remember to use your hands; gestures will help reinforce comprehension as children become familiar with new language and classroom routines.

Greeting Children

Welcome/Hello, come in!
Good morning/afternoon/evening.
Everyone say hello to (name).
I'm so happy to see you.
You look happy/excited!
Who's wearing a (red shirt) today?
How are you today?
How do you feel today?
How's the weather?
What did you have for breakfast/lunch?
Did you hear about ...?

Getting Children Ready

Are you ready for class?
OK, let's get started!
It's time to start.
Sit down, please.
Find your seats.
Who has their book?
Who has their pencil?
Open your books, please.
Pencils ready?
We will start when you're ready/quiet.

Introducing New Ideas

Tell me what you see/know.
What's this?
Can you guess?
Can you think of something (white)?
Can you find something with (ears)?

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Touch your nose, ears, knees, etc.
One, two, three, look at me!
Let's listen to (name).
Raise your hand, please.
Stand up/Sit down, please.
Please wait your turn.
One at a time, please!
Close your eyes.
Put your heads down.

Transitions

Let's move on to ...
Now let's try ...
Now let's listen/read/sing/chant ...
Now it's time for/to ...
It's reading/listening/story/crafting time.
Now let's do it together.
Now it's your turn.

Now you try.
Turn the page.

Common Game and Activity Expressions

Who knows (game name)?
Make a line/circle, please.
Find a partner.
Make a group of three.
Come to the board, please.
I need a volunteer.
Close your eyes.
It's my/your/her/his/their turn.
Time's up!
Don't worry. Try again!
Let's play again.
Did you have fun?

Praising Children

Good/Great job!
Nice/Good work!
Great listening/singing/
pronunciation/energy/teamwork!
You did it!
Thank you for your help!
This is so creative!

I can see your hard work!
I'm proud of you!
You impressed me!
I love your attitude!
Wow, fantastic!

Wrapping Up

Close your books.
Put your pencils away.
Whose (eraser) is this?
Clear your tables.
Let's tidy up.
It's time to go/finish.
Let's get ready to go.

Saying Goodbye

Don't forget your ...
Thank you for your hard work.
I had fun today! Did you?
What did you learn today?
What was the best part of class/your day?
Goodbye/Bye everyone.
See you tomorrow/later.
Have a good day/evening.
See you soon.

Tips and Tricks

The best way to manage a classroom is to think ahead. Preparation is the key to set your class up for success.

Activities and Games

Preparing fun and effective games and activities is a great way to keep children motivated and focused in class. Here are some tips to make sure children are engaged.

- Simple is best! Particularly for young learners or big classrooms, simple activities allow children to learn quickly and practice more.
- Use games that involve as many children as possible. Managing the classroom will be easier if every child has a role.
- Once children are familiar and confident with a procedure, change it slightly before they become bored. For example, have them change partners, play in groups instead of pairs, or take any teacher role.
- Try to end activities before children lose interest, while they are still engaged and on-task.
- Be extremely consistent, fair, and firm when enforcing rules in any activity. Children have a keen sense of justice, and unfairness can disturb the classroom and ruin the fun.

Preparing and Using Materials

Preparing materials can be time consuming. Here are some tips on finding or creating effective materials and saving time.

- Ideally, use videos that are less than a minute long. A short video can be easily watched again and won't disrupt the flow of the lesson.
- Flashcards are precious resources, as are many other print materials. Laminate them to make them last!
- Store books open to the page that was last used or will be used next. This will save precious time during class and will help children avoid distractions.
- Realia makes learning more memorable for children. Whenever possible, use real objects or pictures of real objects in your lessons.
- Be consistent with how you use materials in class. Children are copy cats! If children see you chew on your pen, toss a book on your desk, or stand on your chair to reach something, expect them to do the same.

Story Fun

Stories are one of the most important tools for language acquisition and early childhood development. With some of the tips below, story time can be a relaxing routine everyone looks forward to.

- Seat children in a consistent manner so they know where to sit next time. No matter where or how you seat children before you read a story, make sure they are comfortable and not too crowded.
- To fully immerse children in the story, avoid interruptions on the first read. Resist disciplining children, explaining details, or answering questions until later reads.
- Build comprehension and empathy by taking time at the end of a story to discuss character's feelings. Ask children questions that put them in the character's shoes.
- Making direct eye contact and using gestures, voices, or props can make a story come alive and keep children engaged. Engaged children will remain focused and are unlikely to misbehave.