

122TC

Chae-young Park

Refreshment for students: games and songs

In the class, students sometimes do games, sing songs or do something other things. These activities look unrelated to improve their learning ability in some way. Some people think these are not learning something but hanging out. However, games and songs cannot be totally separated from learning. I hope they could look games, songs, and other activities in different way.

Doing games and singing songs can release the tension the students have during the class, draw their attention, and elicit their motivation to study.

First, students can have a chance to release the tension that they have during study due to the games and songs. Games and songs can make students feel relaxed because they usually enjoy doing games and singing songs. Teachers usually use some games which students already knew because they can understand the rules easily. However, teachers should utilize some unfamiliar games in the class sometimes. Then they should introduce the new game clearly to students. After giving the instruction to students, teachers should check that students really understand the rules of the game by asking some questions. Teachers can show the demonstration to students directly. It can be more effective way to explain how to do the game. For example, when I want to do the

matching game, students have to find the singular and plural pairs of nouns. After they find the pairs, they have to make sentences by using the pairs. After explaining the instruction of the matching game, teachers can ask students some questions such as "what do you find on the board?", and "when you find the singular and plural nouns, then what do you have to do?" I can show them how to do the matching game from finding singular and plural pairs to making sentences like "there is a dog, there are dogs."

Next, games and songs can draw students' attention. Students become happy because of the fact that they would do games or sing songs. However, Students get bored if they do the same kinds of games every class. As teachers should be creative for teaching, they sometimes make their own unique games which are not totally new but similar to common games. If I find this unique game, I will use it for my class right away. Students would become interested the new game and they would be curious of it. The curiosity makes the class active and bright. When I did a class related to traveling, I make the class connecting to making magazine. They have already made their magazine to show what they like. This time, they needed to introduce where they visited. Students really enjoyed it and concentrated their tasks. Even though I just cheat the format they did and change a little part, students feel that it is new. I experienced the effect of the creative cheating.

Last, teachers can elicit students' motivation to study by doing games or singing songs. The games and songs are closely related to the contents students

have to learn. The games make the class interesting and songs help students remember what they study. In my case, I saw some students remember what they learned the previous class when they did games. I often find that the class students sing songs show high memory response more than other class. One of my friends remember chemical symbols that she learned when she was a high school student because she learned a song whose lyrics are all the chemical symbols even though it was almost 10years ago. When students feel they can remember and answer the questions, they become interested in the learning. As they do some games related to learning, they see the possibility of achievement. It makes them confident and active to study something. Games and songs can be the trigger of studying.

As a result, games and songs have some positive effect for students. Students can be relaxed from the stress of study. They get to pay attention to the class more because they are interested the games and songs. Through games and songs, they can motivate themselves to study. If doing games, sings songs, and learning are integrated in one lesson, it would help students to learn something in interesting way. I hope games and songs can be utilize as refreshment for students in the class.