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Games and Songs

Is it effective to use games and/or songs in the class? I believe, having students enjoy playing games or singing the songs could definitely make learning process more fun not to mention that students do not feel pressured they have to learn. However, it is important to understand how the games and songs should be made and introduced to students so that students are not just having fun but also they could achieve their target language.

How do we make sure that games, singing, and learning are integrated into a lesson? First of all, I believe understanding students is very important so that teachers could design games or songs that as many students as possible are interested. Teachers do not want to make games too easy or too difficult as students will lose their interest or give up playing and learning and we want students to interact with each other as well so that no one is left out. Another important factor to consider is that provoking students in a subtle way so that they want to learn, not they are asked to learn. Teachers should make sure that the game flows with the right pace and the process of playing game or singing the song is giving students the opportunity to extend their ability.

The game score of each team cannot always be closely similar from one another. There could be stronger team and of course there could be weaker team. Teachers could help weaker teams to catch up the winning teams. It is called as ‘cheating creatively’ Cheating creatively could be done by giving more support to the losing team, making it harder to win for winning team or having more points when reaching to the end of the game. I believe cheating creatively is needed, especially for young learners’ class. The last thing I want it to happen in my class is any of my students feel they are not good enough and end up giving up. However, cheating creatively should be done very carefully because teachers do not want students to realize we are helping weaker student/team or even to think we are not fair and favoring one student/team. Therefore, once cheating creatively happens, teachers should be more considerate when forming the groups for the future.

One game that could be played in the classroom is called “My favorite thing”. It is Gradual Pictures game. The objective of this game is to help students say what their favorite thing is and why. I believe this will be a great ice breaker. Teacher can introduce the game by giving an example. The fact the teacher is giving an example, students will be able to more comfortably participate. As the activity is related to drawing, the teacher can draw his/her favorite thing then ask students to take a guess what it is that he/she drew. Then teacher could explain what it is and why it is his/her favorite.

In conclusion, I believe games and songs can give students to learn in fun and effective way. As it is always mentioned in the class, if the teacher does the prior planning, the activity will run smoothly. Besides, students will end up learning without realizing they are studying. Teacher will have to facilitate well and make sure that everyone is participating.