

HOW TO TEACH & REVIEW TENSES

LIKE A PRO

84 FUN COMMUNICATIVE ACTIVITIES TO TEACH ENGLISH TENSES

7 AMAZINGLY EFFECTIVE
LEARNER-FOCUSED ACTIVITIES
TO TEACH OR PRACTICE
EACH TENSE

PERFECT FOR
BUSY
TEACHERS
LIKE
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9 GREAT GUIDES FULL OF FRESH
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OF GRAMMAR INSTRUCTION

 21 EASY TO USE GUIDES WITH COMMUNICATIVE ACTIVITIES YOUR STUDENTS WILL LOVE

CONTENTS

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HOW TO TEACH TENSES

- | | | | | | |
|----|---|---------------|--|----|--|
| 3 | SIMPLE PRESENT:
7 Great Activities for Teaching the Simple Present | 12 | PRESENT PERFECT PROGRESSIVE:
7 Fabulous Activities for Reviewing the Present Perfect Progressive | 21 | POST-IT NOTES:
7 Ways to Make Teaching Life Easier with Post-Its |
| 4 | SIMPLE PAST: 7 Great Activities for Teaching the Simple Past | 13 | PAST PERFECT PROGRESSIVE:
7 Communicative Activities for Using the Past Perfect Progressive | 22 | POST-IT NOTES:
7 Simple Learning Centers You Can Do With Post-It Notes |
| 5 | SIMPLE FUTURE:
7 Great Activities for Teaching the Simple Future | 14 | FUTURE PERFECT PROGRESSIVE: 7 Great Activities for Reviewing the Future Perfect Progressive | 23 | POST-IT NOTES: 7 Easy Icebreakers You Can Do With Post-It Notes |
| 6 | PRESENT PROGRESSIVE: 7 Great Activities for Teaching the Present Progressive | BONUS: | | | |
| 7 | PAST PROGRESSIVE:
7 Great Activities for Teaching the Past Progressive | 15 | TEACHING IDEAS:
7 Great Ideas For Teaching ESL | | |
| 8 | FUTURE PROGRESSIVE: 7 Great Activities for Teaching the Future Progressive | 16 | TEACHING IDEAS:
7 MORE Great Ideas For Teaching ESL | | |
| 9 | PRESENT PERFECT:
7 Perfect Activities for Teaching the Present Perfect | 17 | TEACHING IDEAS:
7 NEW Ideas For Teaching ESL | | |
| 10 | PAST PERFECT:
7 Perfect Activities for Teaching the Past Perfect | 18 | BACK TO SCHOOL:
7 Back-to-School Ideas for a Great Class | | |
| 11 | FUTURE PERFECT:
7 Perfect Activities for Teaching the Future Perfect | 19 | BACK TO SCHOOL:
7 MORE Back-to-School Ideas for a Great Class | | |
| | | 20 | BACK TO SCHOOL:
7 NEW Back-to-School Ideas for a Great Class | | |

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7 Great Activities for Teaching the Simple Present

1 Daily Routine

Ss talk to one another about their daily routines. What do they do in the morning? In the afternoon? Evening? Have them write out a schedule for the day to collect their ideas before talking about them with a classmate.

2 Cultural Norms

Give your Ss a chance to share some of their culture as your class studies the simple present. Ss finish this sentence: People in my country... T. introduces adverbs like 'usually', 'typically', 'often'. Practice negative sentences/negative adverbs ('never', 'rarely', 'infrequently').

3 Classmate Interviews

Your Ss can get to know each other while they practice using the present tense. Have pairs of Ss ask questions about the hobbies and interests of their partner. Then, have each person introduce their partner to the rest of the class. This is a good time to practice using questions in the present tense.

4 ESP (Extraordinary Sensory Perceptions)

Sensory observations are always stated in the simple present. Have your Ss observe their surroundings in your classroom or at home. Ss should note their surroundings in regards to all five senses: sight, hearing, feel, touch and taste.

5 Where Am I?

Ss picture a place that they would like to visit, and write 5 sensory statements as if they were at that place. Then, Ss guess where their classmate is. Questions: Are you _____? Review the different uses of at/on/in when used to describe locations.

6 Present Simple BINGO Mingle

Brainstorm a list of get to know you questions, write them on the board. Do you like to cook? Do you drive a car? Give each S a 5x5 grid, the center square is free; Ss randomly put a question in each of the other squares. Ss mingle asking each classmate 1 question, then moving on to another. If someone answers 'yes', he writes his name in that square. The 1st person with 5 squares in a row wins.

7 Weekend Party

What do your Ss do on the weekend? Find out by asking everyone to share his or her favorite weekend activities with the class. If you like, have Ss write a paragraph about their ideal weekend.

7 Great Activities for Teaching the Simple Past

1 Charade Series

In an activity similar to charades, Ss describe the steps in a process after their classmate acts it out. Have one S pantomime an activity (brushing his teeth, writing a letter etc). Once the charade is over, Ss describe each step in the process using the simple past.

2 Dear Diary

Writing about their day is a good way for your Ss to practice the written form of the simple past. Have them write about what they did yesterday paying particular attention to transitions of time (next, then, after that, finally, etc.).

3 Accurate Endings

The -ed ending for regular verbs will not be pronounced the same for every word. Brainstorm a list of regular verbs. Ss sort them into 2 groups. The past pronunciation of one group sounds like [ed] and the other like [t]. Challenge your Ss to articulate the rule which determines which pronunciation to use.

4 Preparations

Ss talk about a significant accomplishment in their lives. After sharing the accomplishment, ask each S to describe what she did leading up to the event. For example, if she graduated college, she studied, took the appropriate classes & filled out her school's paperwork.

5 Double Duty Review

How much do your Ss remember from class yesterday? Find out by asking them to tell you what you did in class yesterday using the simple past. If the majority of your class travelled overseas to study English, have them share what they did before they came to the U.S.

6 Good and Bad Days

Brainstorm what makes a day great. Make another list for what makes a day bad. Pairs of Ss ask each other questions & give answers about a day in the past. For example: "Did you spill your coffee yesterday?" "No, I didn't spill my coffee yesterday." A great way to practice questions and negative use of the simple past.

7 Get Out & About

Get your Ss out of the classroom to freshen up your grammar lessons. Take a short walk outside your school, and have Ss take notes on what they observe. When you come back to the classroom, Ss share what they experienced on the walk using the simple past.

7 Great Activities for Teaching the Simple Future

1 Dreams of Someday

Whether your Ss are planners or prefer to fly by the seat of their pants, writing a 5 year plan can be beneficial in many ways. Explain the concept & give them time to think about where they will be in 5 years & how they will get there. Finally, have your Ss share their plans with the class.

2 Situational Struggles

Brainstorm with your class situations in which making a decision might be difficult. Then, have Ss choose one situation and write a paragraph detailing how they will handle the situation.

3 Homecoming

If your Ss are studying English in a country they don't call home, it may be quite a long time till they are able to return to their friends and families. Have each person in your class list at least ten things they will do when they finally return to their home country.

4 A Fluent Future

Your Ss are studying English for a reason. Have pairs of students ask their partners what they will do once they are fluent in English. Then, have each person share his partner's answer with the rest of the class.

5 A Camping Trip

Have your Ss ever been camping? Have groups of 4-5 brainstorm what they will need to prepare for a camping trip. Then have Ss discuss what role they will play in preparation for the trip using the simple future. For example, one person might say, "I will collect the fire wood."

6 World Tour

If your class comes from all around the world, have each person plan a trip to a city in his home country for the whole class. Each person should take three to five minutes to share with the class what they will do on the trip.

7 Story Stoppers

You can use simple fairytales to help your Ss practice using the simple future. Tell them a traditional story (try Jack and the Bean Stalk, Goldilocks and the Three Bears or The Three Little Pigs) but stop before the resolution to the problem. Ss predict what will happen at the end of the story. You can also use this technique with any literature you may be reading in class.

7 Great Activities for Teaching the Present Progressive

1 Charade Call Out

Charades can be used for many activities in the ESL classroom. For your lesson on the present progressive, have a student act out an activity (such as brushing teeth, washing dishes or getting money from the ATM) and have the rest of the class call out what he is doing using the present progressive.

2 Sorry, I Can't

What can't your Ss do now because they are doing something else? Have each of them write 5 statements about what they cannot do because they are currently doing something else. For example, "I can't study German now. I am studying English instead."

3 Look Around

What is happening all around you and your Ss? Have your class make observations about the world around them using the present progressive. You might want your students to look around the classroom or out the window and describe what the people there are doing.

4 A Picture's Worth

Build a collection of interesting pictures to use with your class. Ads are a good source, as are picture books. Give groups of Ss the pictures and have them describe what is happening in each one.

5 Picture Perfect

Using an action packed magazine photo, have S1 describe the picture to S2. S2 draws what S1 is describing (using the present progressive). Once the pair is finished, they compare pictures and (most likely) get a laugh out of the difference! Ss change roles with a second picture.

6 A Letter Home

What are your Ss doing as they pursue their English studies? In class? For fun? Ss write a letter to someone at home describing their life as an ESL student.

7 What Are You Doing?

As a class, brainstorm all the different places your Ss visit throughout the week. Include places like the gym, the grocery store, a car, and other locations in which they may only spend a few minutes. Pairs of students work together using that list of places. S1 tells S2 where he is (e.g. You are at the gym.), S2 says what he is doing there (e.g. I am lifting weights.)

7 Great Activities for Teaching the Past Progressive

1 The Luck of the Draw

Write several past times on small slips of paper and put them in a hat. Have students draw a time from the hat and then tell what they were doing at that time using the past progressive.

2 People Watching

Have your Ss visit a public area for their homework, preferably an area with a lot of people. Explain the concept of people watching. Ss take notes during their visit and then report back to the class the next day. They use the past progressive to describe what they saw on their homework trips.

3 Memory Challenge

Give your Ss pictures that show a lot of activity and give them 1 minute to study the picture. Ss turn over the picture & ask questions about what was happening in the picture. (e.g. How many people were eating?)

4 What You Didn't Do

Pairs of Ss work together to list some things they didn't do yesterday. Then S1 asks S2 why she didn't do a particular activity. (Why didn't you do your homework?) S2 answers using the past progressive. (I was watching TV.)

5 My Alibi

Put your Ss into groups of about five for a crime investigation role play. One person plays the detective whose job it is to learn who stole the cookie from the cookie jar. She asks questions of her group to identify the thief, and they give their alibis using the past progressive.

6 Strange Explanations

S1 acts as the accuser and asks classmates why they were doing strange activities, and S2 must explain that strange activity. Each question starts with "When I saw you..." E.g. S1: "When I saw you, you were sticking bubblegum to your shoe." S2 "I was filling in a hole in my shoe." Encourage your Ss to be as creative and outrageous as they can for this activity.

7 So Much In Common

Ss work in pairs to discover similar things they were doing at the same time. They start with questions like, "What were you doing at 7 p.m." Each pair should try to find at least 2 things they were doing at the same time and share them with the class. "At 7 p.m. we were both watching TV."

7 Great Activities for Teaching the Future Progressive

1 Future Chance

Write several future times on small slips of paper and put them in a hat. Have Ss draw a time from the hat and then tell what they will be doing at that time.

2 Daily Habits

Have your students write down what they do throughout a typical day and the times that they do it. Then, have them share with a partner what they will be doing tomorrow at several times during the day using the future progressive.

3 Weather Through the Year

In groups of 3 or 4, Ss describe what the weather will be doing in each season of the year using the future progressive. (It will be snowing. It will be raining. etc.) Ss describe the weather in their home countries through each season of the year. Ss use the future progressive or the simple future as appropriate.

4 Keep Going

What are your students doing now that they will still be doing tomorrow? Next week? Next month? Next year? Have each student write a sentence for each time and then share his answers with a partner.

5 People Predictions

What will people be doing in 100 years? Warm up by showing your Ss a clip from a science fiction program (e.g. Star Trek, Star Wars, The Jetsons). Ss make predictions about the future of our world using the future progressive.

6 A Predictable Future

Have each person in your class write down what he was doing each hour of the day yesterday. Then have students exchange papers and rewrite their classmates' schedules assuming tomorrow will be the same as yesterday.

7 A Roll of the Dice

Review prepositions of time (IN for a length of time, ON for a specific date, AT for a specific time of the day), then have Ss make predictions about the future using each of those prepositions as necessary. Each person takes turns rolling a six-sided die. She must then incorporate that number into her future prediction. She can use the number in a length of time, for a specific date or for a specific time in the future. Each person tells the class what she will be doing at that point in time.

7 Perfect Activities for Teaching the Present Perfect

1 Great Accomplishments

What are some of the things your Ss have already accomplished at this time in their lives? Ss share 2-3 things they have done that they are most proud of (in front of the class). The rest of the class asks questions.

2 Have You Ever?

Each S writes 5 sentences stating something he/she did in the past at a specific time, using the Simple Past & the time of the event. Example: "I walked my dog yesterday." Ss exchange papers & rewrite those sentences using the Present Perfect + "before", omitting the time marker. "Hyun has walked his dog before."

3 How Many Times Since

How often do your Ss do daily activities like brushing their teeth, changing their clothes and eating a meal? Review how to use "since", then ask Ss how many times they have done those since yesterday, last week, last month etc.

4 Great Ambitions

What do your Ss want to do that they have not done yet? Review with your class the proper use of the adverb "yet" and then ask them to share with a partner 3 things they have not done yet that they would like to do.

5 Most Deprived

Arrange chairs facing into a circle for all but 1 of your Ss. S1 stands in the middle & announces something he's never done (Pres. Perf). Anyone in the circle who has done that activity gets out of his seat & races to find a new seat. S1 tries to sit in one of the empty seats as well. The person left standing after everyone else is sitting takes the next turn in the middle of the circle.

6 Bucket Lists

Brainstorm every activity you have done or would like to do. Explain the term "bucket list", encourage Ss to think about what they would include on theirs. Ss take turns asking if their classmates have done each of these activities. Ss start with "have you ever" & answer with the Pres. Perf. Encourage Ss to share any surprising answers with the class after their discussion time is complete.

7 Since or For?

"Since" & "for" are often used with the Present Perfect to express a length of time a person has done a particular activity. Use "since" when offering a specific time and "for" for an amount of time. Review & have groups of 3-4 practice using since & for with the present perfect.

7 Perfect Activities for Teaching the Past Perfect

1 Time Flies

Write several past times on small slips of paper and put them in a hat. Ss draw a past time and then state something they had already done by that time using the past perfect & including "already": "I had already applied to school in Feb."

2 Recent Events

What things have your Ss done recently? Brainstorm a list of activities they have done using the simple past and time references. Ss take turns telling the class something they completed before one of the listed events (the past perfect for their own event, a subordinate clause starting with "before" for the event in the simple past): "I'd seen the movie before you finished the book."

3 All In Perspective

Using the events from the last activity, Ss restate their sentences using a subordinate clause with "after": "You finished the book after I'd seen the movie."

4 Experiencing Culture

Ss share some things they'd never done before travelling overseas, using the past perf. in the negative form. "I'd never eaten pizza before I came to the U.S."

5 Just Done

Each S writes out some things that he'd just done for each hour during the day. Example: "I'd just woken up at 6 a.m. I'd just finished my breakfast at 7 a.m."

6 Reported Speech

When using reported speech, verb tenses change. Any verbs expressed in the simple past in the original statement will change to the past perfect in the reported speech. Ss sit in a circle, S1 expresses an action in the simple past. "I came to class today." S2 (next in the circle) convert that sentence to reported speech. "She said that she'd come to class today." S2 then makes a past statement, and S3 changes it to reported speech. Continue until the first person converts the last student's past statement to reported speech.

7 Conditional Sentences

For conditional sentences expressing unreal past situations, the past perfect is used in the if clause. The main clause uses "would" as the auxiliary verb. Ss write 3 true sentences about themselves using the simple past. Then, they write a conditional sentence changing each true sentence into an unreal if clause. "I studied for the test." --> "If I had not studied for the test, I would have failed."

7 Perfect Activities for Teaching the Future Perfect

1 Five Year Plan

Have your Ss heard the expression "5 Year Plan"? Give them a chance to create a plan of their own. Once their plans are finished, Ss share with the class what they will have done before those 5 years are complete, using the future perfect.

2 By The Time...

"By the time" is used to express a future event that will happen after another future event. S1 offers a future event using "by the time" and the simple present, S2 expresses a 2nd event in the Future Perf. that will happen before that. S1: By the time I finish my ESL program... S2: I will have become fluent in English.

3 Future Changes

What will the world be like in 100 years? What will have happened by then? Ss discuss what changes they think will have happened in 100 years. Ss use the future perfect in their sentences. "People will have learned how to time travel."

4 TV Predictions

Ss watch the first half of any video available online (something from YouTube, etc). Ss make predictions as to what will have happened by the end of the show. Ss watch the remainder of the video to see if their predictions were correct.

5 The (Im)Perfect Date

What would your S1 have to do to be ready for a date with the man of her dreams? Brainstorm all of the things she would need to do to be ready for her date at 7 p.m. the following evening, and arrange those tasks in a timeline. How much time will S1 need to be ready by 7? Now, tell your class that a flat tire has caused S1 to be late in getting ready for her date. She lost 90 min., but her dream date will still arrive at 7 p.m. Ss make observations (based on your time line) what S1 will have done and will have not done by the time Mr. Right arrives.

6 Classmate Predictions

On several small slips of paper, Ss write anonymous predictions about their classmates' futures using the future perfect (no names). "This person will have had 5 children in 5 years." Ss hand these predictions in and read each prediction in front of the class. Can they guess who the prediction is about & who wrote it?

7 To Do List

Have your Ss make a to do list for today, this week or this month. Ask them to share with partners the things they will have done once their to do lists are complete.

7 Fabulous Activities for Reviewing the Present Perfect Progressive

1 It Seems Like Forever

Write several time phrases on slips of paper (for 2 weeks, since last year, for my whole life, etc.) and put them in a hat. Each S draws a time and then expresses an activity he has been doing since that time or for that length of time.

2 Stative Verbs

Stative Verbs (they express a state of being, not an action) are not used in the progressive. "I have hated lima beans my entire life" is correct and not "I have been hating lima beans my entire life." Students work in groups of 4-5 to brainstorm a list of stative verbs that should not be used in the progressive tenses.

3 Recent Events

How have your Ss been spending their time lately? Each S shares something that he or she has been doing recently by creating sentences using the present perfect progressive without time markers and including the adverb "recently".

4 The Most Experienced

Pairs of Ss work together to find things they have been doing longer than their partners by asking questions in the Pres. Perf. Progressive. Ss ask questions until they can name 5 things they have been doing longer than their partners.

5 Must Bluff

Pairs of Ss ask each other if they have been doing certain activities for specific lengths of time. "Have you been studying English for 3 years?" Every S2 must always answer 'yes' to the questions they are given. S1 must determine if their partner is telling the truth or bluffing. Award points for each correct guess.

6 In No Time

Write several lengths of time on index cards (2 weeks, 5 years, an hour, etc.). Have enough so each S gets 4-5 cards. They cannot show these cards to their classmates. Ss mingle, moving around the classroom, asking each other questions and trying to get one of the answers on one of their cards. If a classmate's answer matches a time on one of the cards, the student can discard that card. The first person to get rid of all his cards is the winner!

7 Celebrity Guess

Each S researches a celebrity & writes 10 statements describing that person using the present perfect progressive. "She has been starring in films since she was 4 years old." Ss take turns reading their lists to the class until the class is able to guess the celebrity being described.

7 Communicative Activities for Using the Past Perfect Progressive

1 Quite a Change

If your Ss travelled overseas to study English, their lives at home were probably different from their new lives here. Ss share some things they'd been doing in their home countries before they came here. "I'd been studying at the university."

2 How Long?

Write several lengths of time on small slips of paper (1 year, 2 weeks, 6 month, 10 min., etc.). Each S draws a card & shares what they had been doing for that length of time before any other event. For example, a S who draws "2 years" might say, "I had been studying English for two years before coming to the U.S."

3 Secret Charades

S1 comes to the front of the class & acts out a daily activity while the rest of the class keeps their eyes closed. On your signal, S1 freezes in his charade & the rest of the class opens their eyes. The Ss then guess what S1 had been doing when they opened their eyes. Ss use the past perfect progressive.

4 Important Events

Pairs of Ss interview each other to determine a significant event in their past. Then, Ss ask what their partner had been doing before that event in the past. Each person should share their partner's answers with the class.

5 Reporting Past Speech

S1 makes a statement using the past progressive. S2 changes that statement to reported speech using the Past Perf. Progressive. For example, if S1 says, "I was watching television," S2 would say, "He said he had been watching television."

6 Match Up

Give Ss some index cards & ask them to write simple sentences using the Simple Past. Encourage creativity & humor! Collect & redistribute the cards. Each S uses that simple sentence in a dependent clause (starting with 'when') & creates a main clause using the Past Perf. Progressive that will make a logical sentence. S1 might write, "The bear ate the campers' food." S2 could then write, "When the bear ate the campers' food, they had been swimming in the lake."

7 Great Reasoning

Using the same sentences as you used in the last exercise as a main clause, Ss create a dependent clause (starting with 'because') that explains the event. For example, a student might write, "The bear ate the campers' food because they had been throwing it at him."

7 Great Activities for Reviewing the Future Perfect Progressive

1 My Evil Twin

Ss imagine that they each have an evil twin. Each person shares what his evil twin will have been doing up until a certain time today, this week, this month or this year. "My evil twin will have been hunting puppies until 5 p.m. today."

2 10 Years From Now

What will your Ss have been doing 10 years from now? For how long? Each S writes 10 statements describing what he will have been doing & for how long between now and then. "I'll have been speaking English fluently for 7 years."

3 All in a Day's Work

Groups of 4 Ss brainstorm a list of 10-20 different careers. Then, using those careers, the group writes something a person with that career will have been doing 4 hours into his or her work shift. "Sally, a teacher, will have been giving lessons to her students for 4 hours."

4 A Busy Semester

What have your Ss been doing since the beginning of the semester or marking period? Ss list 5-10 activities, then think about how long they will have been doing these activities once the semester ends. Each person writes 1 paragraph.

5 By The Time

Ss work in pairs. S1 starts by identifying a future time with the phrase "By the time..." + a sentence in the simple present. S2 completes the sentence with a main clause using the future perfect progressive. A complete sentence could be, "By the time I finish 'War and Peace', I will have been reading it for 10 years."

6 Cause and Effect

What might the cause of future events be? Ss explain cause & effect relationships for future events. They phrase the cause in the future perfect progressive & the effect in the simple future. "Jane will get an A on Tuesday's test because she will have been studying for 3 days when she takes it."

7 Leaving a Mark

Ss think about their lives, both what has already passed and what is yet to come. By the end of their lives, what will they have been doing to make the world a better place? What will they have been doing to give their lives meaning? Ss share how they will have been leaving their marks on the world by the end of their lives and how long they will have been doing those things using the future perfect progressive.

7 Great Ideas for Teaching ESL

1 Teach Classroom Language

ESL students may not know basic classroom language like “binder” and “white board” or requests like “May I share your book?” Take time to teach this language.

2 Journals

ESL students can almost always use writing practice, so try weekly practice on simple topics such as “My Best Friend” or “My Favorite Vacation.”

3 Peer Revision

Every time students turn in a paper, have a peer read it first, responding to what works well and what needs improvement. Students then revise and turn in next session.

4 Profile Me

Students fill out forms with their names and contact information and a paragraph of basic information: birthplace, language, education, likes and dislikes, and so on. Share in groups.

5 Revision Marks

Most teachers have a set of revision marks, like “sp” for spelling error. Teach students your marks, with examples as necessary. This becomes a mini-review of writing issues.

6 Practice Indirect Requests

“Maria, please ask Jakob if he’ll turn down his music.” Students learn everyone’s names while practicing grammar.

7 Email a Request

Students email a request classmate: “Can you give me a ride tomorrow?” Students then respond, practicing requests and learning peers’ contact information.

7 **MORE** Great Ideas for Teaching ESL

1 My Routine

Students explain in groups their daily routines, practicing the simple present and adverbs of frequency, and then write journals on the topic.

2 Grammar Story

Students construct the story of a fictitious person, using pictures from magazines, and practice present, past, and future tenses to write about his or her life.

3 Headlines

To practice the passive voice, model and have students write headlines for their class: e.g., "The teacher's purse was stolen," "the students were taught passive voice."

4 If I Were a Rich Man

Teach the song from the musical "Fiddler on the Roof." Then students discuss and write about what they would do if they were rich, practicing the unreal conditional.

5 Controversial Issues

Introduce some issues like Capital Punishment. Students choose their teams, issues, research, read, write, and debate on their issue.

6 Plans and Predictions

Have students discuss the future, using different tenses, for what they plan for (to be going to) and predict (will).

7 Twenty Questions

Play the game: one student thinks of someone/something to be, and others try to guess what or who it is, using twenty yes/no questions: e.g., "Are you a person?"

7 **NEW** Ideas for Teaching ESL

1 Idiom of the Week

Once a week, focus on one or more high frequency idioms from your lessons. Explain it and have students use it in conversation and writing.

2 In Class Writing

Have students occasionally spend the class session writing to a composition topic. This provides practice in writing under timed circumstances and without assistance.

3 What is a Sentence?

Review what defines a sentence, types of sentences, and kinds of sentence errors. Good for review and reference throughout the term.

4 Quote a Peer

Interview a peer on a simple topic like "Do you prefer cats or dogs? Why?" Then report on the interview orally and in writing, both quoting and paraphrasing.

5 Translate a Concept

Students explain a well known concept from their cultures, such as "macho" in Spanish, to a classmate from another culture.

6 Explain an Unwritten Rule

Students explain an unwritten rule from their first cultures, such as not visiting without calling first in the U.S., to a classmate from another culture.

7 Call a Service

For homework, have students call local services, such as the parks district, and take notes on the recorded greeting on dates, times, and locations of events.

7 Back-to-School Ideas for a Great Class

1 Human Scavenger Hunt

Students “Find Someone Who—” (went to Disneyland this summer _____, etc.). For 10-20 items write a different student’s name. Gets students talking to each other.

2 My Favorite Class

Students discuss then write about “My Ideal Class” or “My Favorite Class” and why it was a favorite. Assesses speaking, listening, and learner needs.

3 My Goals

Students write essays on then share their goals for the class, the semester, and beyond. Revise essays. Speaking, writing, and goal-setting skills.

4 My Favorite Book/Movie

Have students describe the best book they read or movie they saw this summer. Have them take notes on peers’ books/movies. At the end vote on the best.

5 Let’s Brush Up!

It’s been a long summer. Time for a study skills brush-up! Discuss how to skim a text, mark a text, study vocabulary, organize a class binder, and take notes.

6 Syllabus Quiz

Make your first quiz on the syllabus. Ensures students have read and understood the syllabus while getting them used to taking quizzes.

7 Introduce the Writing Rubric

Introduce students to the qualities of good writing, such as specific details, while introducing writing expectations.

7 **MORE** Back-to-School Ideas for a Great Class

1 My Dream Job

Have students write a paper on then share with their peers their dream job to practice writing and speaking skills while also setting career goals.

2 Give A Speech

Students give a short speech on a simple topic like "My Summer Vacation" to practice speaking in front of groups.

3 Give A Report

Have students give a short written and oral report on something "newsworthy" in their communities, like the opening of a new shopping mall.

4 Our Class Policies

Have students work in groups to draft about ten class rules or polices. They can then share with other groups and decide on a final ten.

5 Weekly Journal

Introduce the weekly journal, for fluency practice, not correctness, and based on a topic that comes up in class reading, like sibling relationships.

6 Survey Your Classmates

Students survey peers on a topic like how many students drink coffee in the morning and then come up with a percentage.

7 Information Gap

Divide up the information on a reading topic among different groups, one paragraph each. Have them then share information to complete the reading.

7 **NEW** Back-to-School Ideas for a Great Class

- ## 1 Intro to the Writing Process

Take students through the process of brainstorming, researching, drafting, revising, and editing a paper. Show examples from your own work.
- ## 2 Plagiarism & How to Avoid It

Define with examples plagiarism. Demonstrate how to quote, paraphrase, and cite properly to avoid plagiarism.
- ## 3 Main Ideas & Specific Details

Define these hazy concepts with examples. Have students develop specific details for topics like "My Living Room."
- ## 4 Walk through the Textbook

Give students a "tour" of the class text, pointing out the table of context, index, and appendix, explaining their uses.
- ## 5 What Does the Campus Offer?

Intro to the campus community. Explain the library, or learning resource center, the tutoring center, the student union, and counseling services.
- ## 6 Plan a Party

You made it through the first month! Discuss the customs of a party. Plan who will bring snacks, drinks, entertainment, etc. Practice conversation for a party.
- ## 7 Listen Up!

Even native speakers of a language don't always listen well. To practice listening, play "telephone": students sit in a line; the person at the end whispers to the person next some personal piece of information: "My birthday is June 27." See how the message gets distorted by the end of the line.

7 Ways to Make Teaching Life Easier

With
Post-It
Notes

1 Create A Seating Chart

Create a flexible seating chart using post-its. You can easily move your students around in class and on paper to change your classroom dynamics. Include essential info about each student on the notes.

2 Allergy Awareness

In your classroom snack area or lunch tables, post any allergies students have on a sticky notes. Use red post-its for severe allergies, and include emergency numbers on the stickies for easy access.

3 Daily Observations

Make the personal comment section of report cards easy by jotting down any observations about student behavior on a post-it each day. At the end of the day, stick the note on a designated comments page in your grade book and be stress free when it is time to complete report cards.

4 Eliminate Confusion

Invite students to come up and write any questions they have about what you reviewed in class on post-its and stick them in a designated area on your board. Since the notes are anonymous, your students won't be too embarrassed to ask, and you will know what you need review with the class.

5 Text Book Notes

Do you find your students making notes in books you will use with future students? Give each student a pack of 1 x 1½ post-its to use for notes in the book. Simply peel them off before giving the book to your next student.

6 Classroom Calendar

Need a calendar large enough for all of your students to see? Make your own classroom calendar using post-its on a wall/bulletin board. Change the paper color each month or simply shift dates to the correct position when a new month rolls around.

7 Cooperative Learning

Post a classified section in your room! When a student needs help with anything, he writes his need on a post-it and includes his name at the bottom. Then, a student who has been successful at that task takes the post-it and seeks out the student who wrote it. When the task is complete, students can throw away the note.

7 Simple Learning Centers You Can Do

With
Post-It
Notes

1 Prefixes and Suffixes

Start with a base word written on a post-it. Ss add prefixes and suffixes, each written on its own post-it. Reverse the process and have Ss break down a longer word. Want a real challenge? Try breaking down the longest word in English: *antidisestablishmentarianism*!

2 Student News

Post a laminated piece of poster board in a corner of your room. Label it "The News Nook". Ss can write a short note about something in their lives on a post-it, and include their name at the end. Encourage everyone to read them. At the end of the week, return the notes to your Ss and start fresh on Monday!

3 Content Review

T writes a question on one post-it and the answer on another. In a folder, stick the answer and then the question on top of it. Ss review the content information by reading the question and self-checking with the answer underneath it.

4 Alphabetical Order

Write several words on post-it notes. (TIP: use current vocabulary words.) Ss put the words in alphabetical order on a flip chart. When finished, Ss check the answers on the next page and re-scramble the words for the next student.

5 And The Answer Is...

Tap into your Ss' creativity with the Answer of the Day center. Simply write an answer on a post-it note and put it at the center each day. Your students then use their creativity and question writing skills to write the questions it might answer!

6 Becoming Experts

Challenge your Ss to become an expert on a new vocabulary term. Write several words on post-it notes and display them in a learning center. Each S chooses one, writes his name on the note, and researches that word until he feels he is an expert. Then, he explains that word to the rest of the class.

7 Sentence Explosion

Take a famous quote and write each word on a separate post-it. Display the words in your learning center. Ss must either group the words by part of speech or arrange them in logical order to reassemble the quotation.

7 Easy Icebreakers You Can Do With

Post-It Notes

1 Hidden Treasure

Write several icebreaker questions on the sticky side of post-it notes and stick them to the board. Each S takes turns choosing 1 sticky note and answering the question on the back. He then chooses another S to answer the same question.

2 Two Truths And A Lie

Give each student 3 post-it notes. On 2 notes, she writes something true about herself; on the third - something false. Ss share in groups of 4-5 and try to guess which statement is each player's lie.

3 Question Mixer

Write the name of a well known person on a sticky note (write enough so everyone in class has one). Stick a note to each S's back. Students ask classmates 1 yes/no question at a time until they have figured out who is on their back.

4 Where Are You From?

For a class of internationals, give each person a post-it note flag to place on their home country on your classroom world map. After everyone has placed their post-it, students try to guess whose note is whose.

5 Get To Know You

Have each S write 5 facts about him/herself on a post-it note, then put the notes on the board (T writes one, too). Choose one and read it aloud. Try to guess who wrote it. When you get the right S, that person takes a turn with the remaining notes. Continue until all the notes are gone.

6 A Matched Set

Ss write 5 fun facts about themselves, turn the paper in to you. Write each fact on a post-it along with a matching one with that student's name. When Ss are not in the room, put the post-its all around the room. Ss race to match the names with the correct facts (they can't match their own name).

7 All-Star Class

Have each S draw a self portrait and display them on a bulletin board in class. Each person writes a positive adjective describing each of his classmates on a star shaped sticky note and sticks it to the self portrait. Do this activity in 1 day or over a period of time, let Ss take their portraits home.