

Role-play

About this activity

'I use role-play a lot in my classes. The best thing about role-play is that we can create situations in the class that are similar to ones in the real world. Last week we did a role-play in which the learners worked in pairs. One was a visitor and the other had to give directions to help the visitor get around.'

Stage 1: Prepare	<p>Role-plays are a good way of getting learners to practice grammar and vocabulary in real-life situations.</p> <p>Before class, think about:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A good topic for a role-play (e.g. something you have been studying recently in class)2. The language needed for the role-play3. The grammar needed for the role-play
Stage 2: Pre-teach	<p>For example, the role-play might be At the doctor's. At the start of the lesson, you could elicit / teach the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parts of the body: head, finger, arm, ankle, stomach etc• Words connected to injury i.e. ache, twist(ed), break / broken, cut, pain etc.• Words connected to cures: medicine, tablets, rest, etc• Phrases: How can I help you? Doctor, I've ... What should I do? You should ... Why don't you ...?
Stage 3: Introduce	<p>Put learners in pairs and say: "One of you is a doctor. The other is a patient. The patient should tell the doctor what is wrong with them and the doctor should give some advice."</p> <p>Model the role-play with a learner at the front of the class, with you as the doctor. Afterwards, you could also get two learners to model a role-play.</p>

Stage 4: Do	Get the learners to do the role-play. Monitor and help where necessary. Then say: “Swap roles and do the role-play again.” You could also tell the learners to work with different partners, and repeat the task.
Stage 5: Present	Ask a few pairs to come out to the front of the class and act out their role-play.

Rather than providing learners with the vocabulary, you could get them to work in groups and brainstorm the vocabulary and structures that they need. Role-plays are a good way at the end to practise language taught during the lesson.

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