BRITISH COUNCIL

Teaching English Communication Skills (TECS)
NEW HORIZON version

Course outline

Module 1: Small Talk

Overview

Many students find it difficult to hold a conversation in English without support. In this session, participants look at the basics of interactive speaking and how to implement regular interactive speaking tasks in their lessons.

Key points from the session

- What does Small Talk look like?
- How does Small Talk help students?
- Small Talk: Demonstration
- Small Talk: Analysis + practice
- Follow-up questions

Module 2: Teaching interactive speaking

Overview

This module is designed to equip you with some essential skills and techniques to effectively teach and assess interactive speaking at Junior High School. In this module you'll look at the key features of spoken English, then analyse a variety of speaking activities, before considering how to assess your students' speaking.

Unit 1 – What is speaking?

Learning aims

By the end of this unit, you'll be able to:

- identify key features of spoken English
- list the key benefits of teaching speaking
- describe how to prepare students for speaking activities.

Unit 2 – Setting up speaking activities

Learning aims

By the end of this unit, you'll be able to:

- use textbook dialogues and role plays as bases for speaking activities
- set up effective and engaging prepared speaking tasks.

Unit 3 – Assessing speaking

Learning aims

By the end of this unit, you'll be able to:

- make effective use of feedback to improve students' speaking skills
- create fair and effective criteria for performance tests
- describe the key issues when setting up performance tests.

Module 3: Teaching and reviewing new words and phrases

Overview

In this module you will see what is involved in vocabulary learning, practise techniques for introducing new words and phrases and experience tasks designed to help students remember them.

Unit 1 – An introduction to vocabulary learning

Learning aims

By the end of this unit, you'll be able to:

- describe the importance of vocabulary learning
- identify key aspects of vocabulary to teach students
- list ways to help students record and revise new words and phrases.

Unit 2 – Introducing new words and phrases

Learning aims

By the end of this unit, you'll be able to:

- describe why explicit teaching of vocabulary is necessary
- list ways to help students manage vocabulary learning
- introduce new vocabulary using a variety of techniques.

Unit 3 – Remembering and using new words and phrases

Learning aims

By the end of this unit, you'll be able to:

- describe the role of forgetting in the learning process and how to combat it
- set up a variety of activities that help students recall vocabulary
- list ways in which students can use vocabulary in the classroom to consolidate learning.

Module 4: Teaching writing

Overview

In this module you will learn how to help your students practise the basics of sentence-writing as well as how to support them to write longer connected texts. You will also see how you can give effective feedback that improves students' writing, in addition to ideas for more formal assessment of writing.

Unit 1 – Supporting writing

Learning aims

By the end of this unit, you'll be able to:

- help students make progress with writing
- set up sentence-level writing texts
- help students write connected texts
- say how and why to apply a drafting process
- support students to express their own ideas, experiences and opinions.

Unit 2 – Assessing writing

Learning aims

By the end of this unit, you'll be able to:

- describe the important role of feedback in improving writing
- say what kind of feedback is effective
- list ways to give effective feedback
- involve students in the feedback process
- use criteria for assessing students writing.