

AUTHENTIC MATERIALS AND THEIR USAGE

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ABSTRACT

As an English language instructor, you have undoubtedly seen a vast array of language learning resources, such as course texts, vocabulary lists, grammar exercises, flashcards, audio recordings, and language learning applications. With the direction of a competent EFL instructor, they may be quite effective in language instruction, but they can also have certain drawbacks. Dr. Gareth Popkins, an experienced language instructor and polyglot, asserts, "Language textbooks may be dull and demotivating" [1] They concentrate excessively on dry grammar, incomprehensible explanations, endless exercises, and dreary texts." Therefore, many language instructors prefer to augment their classroom materials with actual, real-world language content that engages their students, makes them enthusiastic about learning English, and helps them to further strengthen their language abilities. In this post, we'll take a deeper look at real English language resources and discuss how they may assist your students, where you can obtain them, and how to maximise their usage in the EFL classroom.

Key words: authentic lesson, EFL,

INTRODUCTION

Texts, audio, and video that have been created with native speakers in mind are examples of authentic language resources. Unlike typical resources designed specifically for second language learners, they are not organised in a particular manner and do not employ specialised syntax or vocabulary since they presume the reader has a native-level understanding of the language.

Using them delivers a multitude of benefits:

- They provide originality to the classroom

As discussed before, they enable language instructors to be more inventive with their teaching materials, bring the language to life, and excite and drive pupils. "Interest is a powerful motivational process that energises learning, guides academic and career trajectories, and is essential for academic success," Professor of Psychology Judith Harackiewicz and colleagues wrote in their 2016 paper 'Interest Matters: The

Importance of Promoting Interest in Education'... "Increasing students' interest may lead to a more engaged and motivated learning environment. [2]"

- They aid the learner in establishing a rapport with the language

Using authentic language resources may also assist your ESL students create a meaningful connection with the language and better relate to its content, therefore enhancing their overall learning experience.

- They provide the pupil with authentic English use

Obviously, we are not just teaching English as an academic subject. We want students to be able to utilise the language in the real world to accomplish their objectives, advance in their jobs, relocate to an English-speaking nation, and succeed in whatever endeavours they undertake. According to linguist Christine Nuttall Heinemann's book 'Teaching Reading Skills in a Foreign Language' from 1996, "genuine texts may be inspiring because they demonstrate that the language is used for real-world reasons by actual people" [3]. Without exposure to actual language resources, kids may fail to communicate beyond the classroom.

METHODS

First, keep in mind that the videos themselves are not required to serve as a source of vocabulary. You may freely display stunts, dances, and other humorous or amusing stuff. Ensure that your activities are focused on language.

Here are several examples:

Describe a dance: Have students see a dance and explain how a dancer moved using previously covered verbs. As an example, "They lifted their arms, twirled around, fell to the ground, and shook their hips..." What occurs next:

Students are tasked with predicting what will happen in the second half of a video after it has been partially seen.

Become a superfan: Have your students comment on the video as though they were diehard fans of the TikToker featured. Using this TikTok video, here is a fast example of a conversation-based exercise ideal for adolescents or younger learners:

First, examine the screenshot of the "infant" at the fast-food restaurant. What do you believe is occurring?

Step two: Watch the video's opening 10 seconds. What obstacle were they overcoming?

Step three: Determine if your forecasts were accurate or inaccurate.

Fourth, what was the result?

Step five: Rewatch the video and make a note of any words you found intriguing.

Working with a partner, design your own challenge is the sixth step.

RESULTS

This method will increase students' interest in the target language and the countries where it is spoken. Even if the students are absolute novices, this strategy will

provide them with their first success in the target language in the actual world. It is an excellent confidence booster. Using actual language resources in the classroom may provide a welcome alternative to relying only on textbooks. Such events might be implemented regularly, for instance on Fridays. This exercise provides excellent opportunity for groupwork once again. Distinct groups may pick, investigate, and read a variety of publications on the same or wholly different topics. They may then show their work to the rest of the class and potentially spark a conversation.

CONCLUSION

There are, of course, many additional actual text samples, reading resources, and multimedia content that you may use with your students. You may choose to teach online English via podcasts, television or radio interviews, movie snippets or trailers, or even advertisements or posters. Asking students to locate this sort of material is one of the most effective methods to introduce it. Request that they locate a video, article, poster, or other piece of information that they would want to discuss in class. So that you have time to plan your activities, request that they email it to you well in advance of the class. We hope that this has given you some ideas for your next class and motivated you to include real resources into your own teachings. If you found this information useful, you may also be interested in *The definitive dos and don'ts of educating children online*.

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