

EFFECTIVE PRACTICE ACTIVITIES

A good practice activity should have as many of these characteristics as possible:

- ✓ testing meaning, pronunciation, and form
- ✓ personalised
- ✓ communicative (and meaningful)
- ✓ cognitively involving
- ✓ fun

Language Practice Activity Types

(it's not all just gap-fill!)

With a partner, do the following language practice activities in order to answer these questions:

1. How are M, P and F reflected?
2. Which of the ideal criteria are met?

a) Spot the difference (possible TL: beach vocab; Is there...? Are there...?; a/some/any) Ss work in pairs. They have very similar pictures of a beach but with 6 differences. Ss don't show their picture but take turns to ask each other questions to find the differences.
e.g. A: Is there a tree in your picture? B: Yes. Are there any children in your picture? A: No

M	P	F	personalised	communicative	cognitively involving	fun
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b) Sentence transformations (TL: modals of obligation - can/can't/have to/don't have to) Students are given sentences about house rules.

e.g. You have to make your bed. You can't smoke indoors.

They re-write them, changing them from positive to negative and vice versa.

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c) 'Find someone who.....' (TL: present perfect for experiences)

Ss mingle and ask questions to find someone in the class who:

has visited New York; has been scuba-diving; has never seen an opera etc.

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d) Questionnaire (TL: questions and short answers with 'can for ability')

Students write a questionnaire using *can* and *can't* e.g. Can you cook Chinese food? Can you ski? They use the questionnaire to interview their partner.

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e) Diary activity / mingle (possible TL: present continuous for future arrangements; functions of inviting and accepting/refusing)

Students A and B have different diary pages filled in with activities for next week. A phones B to organise a night out at the cinema and they have to find a day and time which suits them both. For example:

What are you doing on Monday evening?

Actually, I'm busy. I'm having dinner with friends.

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f) Stem / incomplete sentences (TL: all future forms)

Talk to your partner about your plans for the next few weeks. Then complete these sentences so that they're true about you.

By the end of next ...	we will both have	been to ...
	one of us will have	played ...
	neither of us will have	watched ...

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