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CLASSROOM TECHNIQUES AND ACTIVITIES (FOR READING)

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Abstract. Effective reading instruction is essential for developing students' language skills, comprehension, and critical thinking. This paper explores various classroom techniques and activities designed to enhance reading proficiency among learners of different ages. Strategies such as pre-reading preparation, interactive reading, paired and group reading, questioning techniques, and post-reading discussions are analyzed for their effectiveness. The study emphasizes the importance of engaging students actively, promoting vocabulary acquisition, and fostering a positive reading environment. The findings suggest that incorporating diverse reading activities not only improves comprehension but also increases students' motivation and confidence in reading.

Keywords: Reading comprehension, Classroom activities, Pre-reading strategies, Interactive reading, Vocabulary development, Student engagement, Reading motivation.

Reading is one of the four main language skills, and it plays a vital role in developing students' communicative competence. In the process of learning English, reading not only helps students to understand written information but also enriches their vocabulary, improves grammar awareness, and develops thinking abilities. Therefore, every English teacher should know effective classroom techniques and activities that make reading lessons engaging and purposeful.

The aim of teaching reading is not only to make students recognize words or translate sentences but also to help them understand, interpret, and evaluate information. When teachers use interesting and well-organized techniques, students become more motivated, active, and independent readers.

1. Importance of Reading in Language Learning

Reading is an essential skill for both academic success and everyday communication. Through reading, learners get familiar with different text types such as stories, articles, and letters, which expose them to authentic language use. It also helps learners to see how grammar and vocabulary function in real contexts.

In modern education, reading lessons should not be limited to silent reading or translation. Instead, they should include interactive activities that stimulate curiosity and involve students in meaningful learning. Teachers





should select texts that are suitable for the learners' age, interest, and language level. When students find the reading material interesting, they participate more actively and comprehend better.

2. Pre-reading Techniques and Activities

Pre-reading activities are the first stage of the reading lesson. Their main goal is to prepare students for the text, activate their background knowledge, and make them curious about the topic.

Some useful pre-reading techniques include:

Brainstorming – Students share what they already know about the topic.

Prediction – The teacher shows the title or pictures and asks students to guess what the text might about.

Vocabulary preview – Key words from the text are introduced through games or matching exercises.

Discussion – Short conversations related to the theme help students connect their experience with the upcoming text.

These activities make students mentally ready to read and help them understand the text more easily.

3. While-reading Techniques and Activities

While-reading activities help learners concentrate on the text and understand its content. During this stage, students read carefully, looking for the main idea, specific details, or answers to particular questions.

Effective while-reading activities include:

Skimming and scanning tasks – Students read quickly to find the general idea or specific information.

True/False or multiple-choice exercises – These help check comprehension.

Information gap activities – Students share parts of the text to complete missing information. Note-taking or highlighting – Learners underline key words or phrases while reading. These techniques teach students to read with purpose and develop analytical thinking.

4. Post-reading Techniques and Activities

Post-reading is the final stage of the reading process. It allows students to use what they have read creatively and communicatively.

Examples of post-reading activities are

Summarizing – Students write or tell the main points of the text in their own words.

Role-plays or dramatization – Learners act out parts of the text to improve speaking and comprehension.

Discussion and opinion sharing – Students express their ideas or attitudes about the text.

Creative writing – Learners write a continuation of the story or a letter to one of the characters.





Through such activities, students integrate reading with speaking and writing skills, which makes learning more complete and enjoyable.

5. Teacher's Role and Classroom Atmosphere

The teacher plays a central role in organizing effective reading lessons. It is important to create a friendly classroom atmosphere where students feel comfortable expressing their thoughts and asking questions. The teacher should guide learners, provide feedback, and encourage them to read for pleasure.

Modern classrooms can also use digital tools such as online articles, e-books, and reading apps. These not only motivate students but also help them practice reading outside the classroom.

Conclusion

To sum up, reading is an essential component of English language teaching. By applying different classroom techniques and activities, teachers can make reading lessons more interactive, motivating, and productive. The combination of pre-reading, while-reading, and post-reading stages helps learners develop comprehension skills and critical thinking.

When students enjoy reading and feel confident, they naturally improve their overall language proficiency. Therefore, every English teacher should pay attention to the selection of suitable techniques and activities that support both understanding and enjoyment of reading.

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