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Classroom Techniques and Activities for Enhancing Reading Skills in the English Language Classroom

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Abstract

Reading is a fundamental skill in English language learning, yet many learners struggle with engagement, comprehension and fluency. This paper presents a range of classroom-based techniques and interactive activities designed to develop reading skills effectively. We review pre-reading, while-reading and post-reading stages, and highlight specific tasks such as jigsaw reading, picture-based stories, reading relays and comprehension board games that promote collaboration, critical thinking and motivation. The activities are applicable for various proficiency levels and can be adapted to suit different classroom contexts. The objective is to enable teachers to create a more communicative, student-centred and dynamic reading environment that supports vocabulary growth, fluency and comprehension.

Keywords: reading skills, classroom activities, ESL/EFL, jigsaw reading, communicative reading, pre-reading tasks, while-reading tasks, post-reading tasks

1. Introduction

Reading plays an essential role in language learning and development. However, many students face challenges such as lack of motivation, limited comprehension skills, and minimal engagement. Teachers must integrate interactive and communicative methods to improve reading outcomes.

2. Theoretical Framework

Reading instruction involves three major stages: pre-reading, while-reading, and post-reading. Effective reading teaching includes phonemic awareness, vocabulary development, fluency, and comprehension.

3. Classroom Techniques & Activities

Pre-reading activities include predicting the content, brainstorming, and vocabulary warm-ups. While-reading activities focus on jigsaw reading, information gap tasks, and reading relays. Post-reading tasks include summarizing, role-playing, and creating comprehension board games.

4. Adapting for Different Levels & Contexts

Different learners require various levels of scaffolding. Lower-level students benefit from visuals and guided questions, while higher-level learners can engage in critical discussions. Motivation is key, so teachers should offer students some freedom to choose reading materials.

5. Conclusion

An interactive and communicative reading classroom fosters comprehension, critical thinking, and learner autonomy. Integrating these techniques transforms reading into an engaging and meaningful process.

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