



Here are some communicative language activities for using song in an EAL class:

Vocabulary

- Hand out pictures and ask students to hold them up when they hear their word in the song.
- Use gestures with particular vocabulary to enhance comprehension.
- Create vocabulary and picture cards for matching activities.

Speaking

- Sing or chant particular words or lines and ask your students to repeat them. This works well when students are standing in a circle.
- Ask students to use particular phrases from the song in a conversation.
- Use the theme of the song to generate conversation and discussion in class.

Listening

- Listen to a song and underline specific parts of speech.
- Create a cloze activity that has a grammar focus (e.g. verbs) and write a few lines of the song on the whiteboard at a time. Ask individual students to write the missing words on the whiteboard when they hear them.
- Ask half the students to listen to a line of a song and dictate it to their class mates who haven't heard it.

Pronunciation

- Ask students to stand up and link arms when they hear linking between particular words, e.g. bus - stop.
- Focus on singing particular sounds the students need to practice. Ask students to stand up to sing them. They can also sing other words that have the same sound.
- Hum the tune first. Then clap, tap or use body percussion to find the rhythm of a song.

Reading

- Read the lyrics of the song and create a few comprehension questions for students to answer.
- Create word cards for a line of the song and distribute them randomly to the appropriate number of students. Ask them to stand up in front of the class and hold their cards so everyone can see them. When the song line is played, they must quickly move to the correct position. (A similar activity can be used for spelling.)
- Ask students to read alternate lines of the song to each other.

Writing

- After talking about the themes in the song, students can write a paragraph on the same theme.
- When students have completed a number of language activities and sung the song, they can write their own song in groups.
- Write sentences using the same grammatical structures that are in the song.

Enjoy! Please feel free to email us on info@urbanlyrebirds.com if you have any queries or feedback.