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TEACHING MUSIC AND SONGS WHILE TEACHING YL

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Abstract.

This article proposes deep explanation of using music and songs for teaching young ELL. The first hint for any teacher regarding the use of music is that it is a tool, not a panacea. Just like any other tool, it can be used appropriately for great benefit, or if used inappropriately it could be useless or perhaps even harmful. Just as a carpenter wouldn't use a power saw to drive a nail, don't use music where it shouldn't be used.

Annotatsiya.

Ushbu maqola yosh o'quvchilarni ELLni o'qitish uchun musiqa va qo'shiqlardan foydalanishni chuqur tushuntirishni taklif qiladi. Musiqani ishlatish bilan bog'liq har qanday o'qituvchiga birinchi maslahat, bu dori vositasi emas, balki vositadir. Har qanday boshqa vosita kabi, u katta foyda uchun mos ravishda ishlatilishi mumkin, yoki noto'g'ri ishlatilgan bo'lsa foydasiz yoki ehtimol zararli bo'lishi mumkin. Agar duradgor tirnoqni ishlatish uchun kuchni ko'rsatsa, uni ishlatmaslik kerak bo'lgan joydan foydalanmang.

Introduction

The first hint for any teacher regarding the use of music is that it is a tool, not a panacea. Just like any other tool, it can be used appropriately for great benefit, or if used inappropriately it could be useless or perhaps even harmful. Just as a carpenter wouldn't use a power saw to drive a nail, don't use music where it shouldn't be used.

When you combine that with a teacher who required silence during this period, you can see the situation my students were in. They had been kept seated statically for the past hour-almost silently-and needed a change of pace before being able to do anything useful in terms of English.

Use Music as an ESL Warm-up

This tactic is especially useful when you have students who are coming in from a very static period, a boring period or one that was very stressful. For example, I had one class that I would consistently teach immediately following Japanese calligraphy class. For those who are familiar with Japanese calligraphy, the motions are supposed to be very exact, and the students spend the whole time sitting at their desks working on nothing but getting one particular figure or phrase perfect.

In warm-up situations, keep in mind the mood you want to set for your period. Since I tend to prefer a class that is active but not frantic, I use lots of music that has a "rock" edge to it. When working with students that are already overly frantic, I choose

slower, more mellow music. Either way, I choose the music to bring the students into the mood that I want them to be for that class period.

When choosing a song for warm-up, while mood of the music is paramount, do not forget about lyrics. Students need a few minutes at least to switch their minds from their native language into English. Try to find something with a decent "hook" or chorus that students can at least repeat consistently without feeling stressed. Queen's "We Will Rock You," comes to mind, and while it may have very fast verses (many native speakers cannot even keep up, especially if you have a few beers in you), the iconic "we will, we will rock you," combined with the back beat make it a fun song.

Group singing is perhaps the easiest way to implement music as a warm-up. Remember, you want something that is quick, easy to understand and can be explained in just a few minutes at most. If you have to spend five minutes explaining how, you're going to miss your window of opportunity. If you have a lower level class, just having them sing the "hook"/chorus is perfectly fine.

I prefer to let students move around as they like with this; a little dance or a little jive is great to set the proper mood. For lyrics, choose music that you have previously introduced, or something so simple that they can pick it up on the fly. Remember, we're trying to get your students' heads out of their books and papers in this instance-not having them read lyrics sheets.

Personal Favorite ESL Warm-up Songs:

Queen - "We Will Rock You"

Naughty By Nature - "Hip Hop Hooray" (Note: There are adult lyrics at points, but even native speakers never know what these guys are saying until the famous "Hey, ho" chorus.)

The Beatles - "Yeah, Yeah, Yeah"

ESL Warm-up Songs for Younger Children:

"Mary Had a Little Lamb"

"Five In the Bed"

Once students have a basic grasp of your target language or the structure that you want to practice, a perfect way to work on speed and delivery of English is to use music. In this instance, I think using the numerous ESL-targeted music CDs is ideal.

While to a native speaker these songs can sometimes come off as a bit hokey or contrived, with a bit of gusto they can readily be used to get students repeating target structures and grammar in a faster, more flowing manner. Make sure you try to pick CDs that are marketed towards the age group you are working with, to minimize the "hockiness."

When you use music to teach speed and flow, keep your body movements to a minimum. While sitting in their desks or standing in choral rows isn't helpful, if students are spending as much brain power worrying about movements and dancing as they are

about singing, something is going to get lost. This happens even for professional singers in their native language. When you add in the foreign language aspect, students will often let the unfamiliar language slip in order to embrace the somewhat more familiar physical movement. This is especially true when talking about large groups, where students will try to hide in the anonymity of the crowd.

After trying a new song through group practice, there are tons of variations you can do. Songs with multiple parts can be reviewed by breaking up the class into groups, or you could even try a full-on choir style of singing if you have experience. I've also used it as a game with younger children, pausing the CD at random points and having them fill in the blanks by singing the next phrase of the song.

Conclusion

The main difference between the warm-up repetition and using music for previous vocabulary and grammar is that in this instance, the song can vary more like a normal song. The key is that the students are already familiar with the words and the grammar ideas. This means they're using the song for review, enjoyment and exposure to new variations on familiar themes.

When using music in this way, it's so important to pick music that fits the temperament of the class or the student. Again, ESL CDs can be useful, but familiar children's songs, holiday tunes (at that time of year) or even popular music can also be used. As a caveat, try to use selective editing when it comes to language. While adult or older students may be able to "handle" adult language, keep the lyrics clean to safely avoid cultural problems or potential future faux pas.

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