Active Learning

(in the age of COVID)

David Persey   ***Teacher Training Specialist***   ***31st July 2021***

Active Learning aims to:

> "Produce learners who are **confident**, **responsible**, **reflective**, **innovative** and **engaged**: the Cambridge Learner and Teacher Attributes. " *(Cambridge University Press)*

Passive vs Active Learning

Passive learning is:	Active learning is:
Writing things down	Processing
Accepting ideas	Assessing/evaluating
Unwilling to discuss ideas	Collaborating
Recalling/remembering	Applying
Being right	Learning from mistakes

Engagement

We generally remember:

10 % of what we read
20 % of what we hear
50 % of what we see and hear
70 % of what we say or write
90 % of what we do

➔ Every skills activity should involve *doing* (thinking and using the language)

Online Teaching Tip No.1:
Start the class with an interesting question involving choosing/ranking
Use the *poll* feature
Move to *Breakout Rooms* for discussion/justification of choices

Online Teaching Tip No.2:
Use the chat box for different types of activities:
- Interactive stories
- Dialogue practice (including disappearing dialogues)
- Error correction
- Instructions for activities
- Pronunciation (e.g. phonemic script)

Online Teaching Tip No.3: Encourage sharing of ideas in the breakout rooms:

- Give students a clear task
- Students can share *whiteboards* and documents inside their breakout rooms
- Whiteboards can be used for creative activities and graphic organisers

Online Teaching Tip No.4: Reading and writing can and should be active

- Use presentations/PPT – not only teachers but students
- Shared reading can be edited by students (e.g. for highlighting different parts of a text)
- Shared documents can be used for collaborative writing
- Multiple copies of a text can be copied into a document for different groups of students to work on in breakout rooms

Online Teaching Tip No.5: KWL is a great technique and works just as well online

- Elicit what students know already
- Elicit what they want/hope/expect to know
- Does the reading/listening/video confirm their guesses?
- What did they learn?

Some useful websites:

Websites referred to in the workshop:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/lingohack

https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround

https://eslbrains.com/

https://padlet.com/

https://flippity.net/

Some other recommended websites:

https://en.islcollective.com/

http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org

https://info.flipgrid.com/

https://www.onestopenglish.com/

Webinars – All the major publishers (Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Macmillan, Scholastic, National Geographic Learning, etc.) offer free online webinars – information on their websites.

Thank you!

David Persey Training

davidlinebkk   **dpersey@yahoo.co.uk**