

Everyday English expressions in class

Aims

1. Improvement of basic language communication skills.

Skills to be developed: Oral production
 Listening perception
 Interactive conversation

2. Awareness of the importance of proper intonation.
3. Understanding of the pace and rhythm of English speech.

Methodology

1. Use “everyday expressions” in casual classroom communication.
2. Compare intonation and natural English speech.

TEACHER

These expressions are meant to be said naturally and accompanied, if possible, by gestures.

The teacher pronunciation should be clear, with the proper pace and rhythm to be understood.

Intonation should follow the natural English speech, according to the emphasis of words.

The emphasis or stress is the extra force that you give to a word or part of a word when you are pronouncing it.

These expressions have to be used in an actual context, not in a contrived one. Based on this principle, both listening and speaking activities are part of a comprehensible system.

Most of the time, in order to be understood you have to change the expressions right in the moment. In this case, some tricks are:

- Tell a synonym. Take this “*handout*” = *paper / copy*.
- When explaining opposites give examples: Low / High , Loud / soft , Long / short.
- Definitions. To clap: to hit both hands together
- Use body language. Thumbs up for “right”
- Use a “familiar association” or symbolism.

All the expressions are classified as it follows:

1. Greetings and farewells.
2. Spontaneous reactions
3. Getting their attention.
4. Telling them to do sth.
5. Encouraging expressions
6. Organising contents, time and places.
7. Showing sympathy
8. Checking their understanding

Greetings and farewells.

Good morning / morning
Hello / Hi guys!
How do you do?

Goodbye
Bye, have a nice day
Enjoy your day
See you tomorrow
Take care

Spontaneous reactions

Thank you
Thank you / you're welcome
Bless you!
Congratulations
Do you feel well?
Do you have *the hiccups*?
a headache, stomachache, a cold, the flu,...
Sorry (apologize)
Sorry? (say it again)

Getting their attention

Listen... Look...
Pay attention...
So now, listen to...
Excuse me...
Watch out!
I have a question for you
What's up?

Telling them to do sth.

Take out your notebook/recorder/pen
Write down the following sentence
Repeat after me...
Can you repeat, please?
Please, open your notebook.
Check your answers...
Work in groups. Work in pairs
Get together in groups of four
Go to the digital board
Raise your hand to answer.
Read sth. aloud
Stand up / sit down
Speak louder, please
Speak more slowly
Shut up!
Stop interrupting/ Don't interrupt
Memorize
Can you spell it? / How do you spell it?
Hold your horses!!

Encouraging expressions

Right! / you're right
Well done! / Very well! / Good
Good job / Great job
Excellent
Fabulous
That's fine
Brilliant
Go on
Let's continue
Go ahead

Organising contents, time and places.

Let's start our class.
Today, we are going to...
First.... and then / next ...
From the beginning of the page...
We are going to review the homework
Any questions so far?
Volunteers, please!
I'm going to check/count if you're all in the classroom.
Who is not here? (checking roll)
What date is it today?
What's the date today?

Showing sympathy

Make it simpler
Make it easier.
Try again
Once more / once again
Say it again..
Don't get it, can you repeat, please?
What do you mean with.....?
It's the other way round
Use your brains
Relax!

Checking their understanding

Do you understand me?
Is it clear?
What does (word) mean?
What's the meaning of... ?
Is this right? / Is this ok?
May I ask... ?
How do you say.... in English?
Tell me the difference between A and B
Are you ready?
Finish?
Any questions so far?
Who knows the answer?
What else?
Does it ring a bell?

STUDENT

These expressions are meant to give confidence to the student's communication skills. As a result, expressions should be encouraged within their classroom relationships.

One way to stop yourself translating and therefore increase your speed of comprehension and production is to learn all your vocabulary without the use of your own language.

Accuracy is something to be expected later on, in the meantime **intention and will** come first.

The most common student's expressions are classified as follow:

1. Greetings and farewells
2. Spontaneous reactions
3. Asking for permission
4. Asking for help

Greetings and farewells.

Good morning
Hello / Hi teacher!
How do you do?

Goodbye
Have a nice day
Enjoy your day
See you tomorrow
Take care

Spontaneous reactions

Thank you
Thank you / you're welcome
Bless you!
Congratulations
Do you feel well?
Do you have *the hiccups*?
a headache, stomachache, a cold, the flu,...
Sorry (apologize)
Sorry? (say it again)

Asking for permission

Can I go to the toilet?
Can I sharpen, please?
Can I use a dictionary?
Can I borrow a pen/eraser/paper?
Can you lend me your pen/eraser/paper?

Asking for help

I need help / more time...
Sorry?
Say it again..
I don't get it, can you repeat, please?
What do you mean with.....?
What does (word) mean?
What's the meaning of... ?
Is this right? / Is this ok?
May I ask... ?
How do you say.... in English?
Tell me the difference between A and B

English intonation table

Student's task: Try to guess the expressions after listening to the intonation audio file. The written expressions in the first column are not in the correct order. The student has to figure out their actual position. They should also decide whether the *intonation* is higher (H) or lower (L) pitch.

The “actual sounds” audio file are meant to check student's answers.

Fill in the “actual sounds” gap writing the expressions in the correct order.

Intonation	Pitch	Actual sounds
<i>Greetings and farewells</i>		
Bye, have a nice day		1
Enjoy your day		2
Goodbye		3
Hi guys!		4
How do you do?		5
Morning		6
See you tomorrow		7
Take care		8
<i>Spontaneous reactions</i>		
Bless you		1
Congratulations		2
Do you have a cold?		3
Do you have a stomachache?		4
Do you feel well?		5
Sorry (apology)		6
Sorry?		7
Thank you		8
Thank you (back)		9
You are welcome		10
<i>Asking for help</i>		
How do you say guitarra in English?		1
I don't get it, can you repeat, please?		2
I need help		3
I need more time		4

Is it ok?		5
Is it right?		6
May I ask?		7
Say it again?		8
Tell me the difference between A and B		9
What do you mean with...		10
What does conductor mean?		11
What's the meaning of conductor?		12
<i>Asking for permission</i>		
Can I borrow a pen?		1
Can I go to the toilet?		2
Can I sharpen, please?		3
Can I use a dictionary?		4
Can you lend me your eraser?		5

Requirements needed to make this material:

Computer: a) Hardware: Soundcard, headphones and microphone.

b) Software: Audacity + Encoder Lame MP3
Audio player. VLC
Openoffice. Writer.