

LANGUAGE LEARNING AND MUSICAL ACTIVITIES

Activities to unlock potential

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LLAMA Festive Pass the Parcel

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| Aim | To reinforce new vocabulary, especially focussing on pronunciation |
| Time needed | 5 - 10 minutes |
| Preparation and equipment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sound file: 'LLAMA Festive Pass the Parcel (1 minute)' • some objects whose names the students need to learn / revise (or use pictures of these objects) • task cards printed out and cut up (or the task sheet for the teacher to use) |
| <p>Repetition is often the key to remembering new words, but it can become tedious just repeating words. This is one way of offering a lot of repetition, with an element of surprise that can also make it memorable.</p> | |

SUGGESTED PROCEDURE:

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| 1) | <p>Put the students into a circle, and explain the game:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you are going to pass an object around the circle; • as each person receives it, they must say the name of the object, making sure to focus on the correct pronunciation, including word stress; • then they can pass it on to the next person. <p>However:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when the music stops, the person holding the object has to perform a task; • this task will be determined by turning over the top card from the set of cards, which are placed in the middle of the group, OR the teacher can allocate a task according to that student's level of proficiency and what they need to practice. <p><i>(this could be 'use the word in a sentence' / 'say the word in another language' / 'spell the word' etc.).</i></p> <p>You might have to physically demonstrate the procedure to help everybody understand it.</p> |
| 2) | <p>Once the basic idea of the game is understood, play the sound track and start playing the game.</p> <p>Pass the first object / picture to the student next to you in the circle, saying the word clearly and - if possible - in rhythm with the music. Encourage the student to repeat the word and pass on the object / picture. Make sure each student says the word and passes the object, keeping up a good pace.</p> |

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| 2) continued | If you have a very large class, you might want to divide them up into smaller circles of 8 - 12 people. Let them go round a few times first, without stopping the track, to get the idea of passing and naming the object. You will probably find that they fall into the rhythm of the music after a short time. |
| 3) | When the music ends, congratulate them for working as a team. Tell them that you will play again, and this time the music will be stopping now and again, and whoever is holding the object will have to do a task. |
| 4) | <p>Start the sound track again. This time, be ready to pause it now and again.</p> <p>The students can pass the same object around, or introduce a different object, depending on how many different words you want to practise. Now and again, pause the track.</p> <p>When the music stops, identify who is holding the object/s and either turn over the top task card and read out the task (or ask another student to do so) or choose a task for that student to do. Try to gauge an appropriate level of challenge for that student – something that they can do, possibly with help / support from the group.</p> |

Make it easier:

Use 1- or 2-syllable words that are quite familiar for the students.

Keep the task the same for everybody (e.g. 'say the word in another language').

Make it harder:

Use objects with longer names.

You could even have several objects going round the circle at the same time, so that 2 or 3 students have to perform tasks when the music stops.

Differentiate:

Put the students into smaller groups and allocate objects and tasks to each group, according to their levels of proficiency, and what they need to practise.

Pass the parcel – task sheet

Say the word in another language.

Use the word in a sentence.

Spell the word.

Say what the word means.

Say a word that is connected (meaning or use).

Say a word that sounds similar (same first sound or rhyme).

Say the word backwards.

Say the word and clap the rhythm.

Pass the parcel – task cards

**Say the word in
another language.**

**Use the word
in a sentence.**

Spell the word.

**Say what the
word means.**

**Say a word that is
connected (meaning or
use).**

**Say a word that sounds
similar (same first
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Say the word backwards.

**Say the word and
clap the rhythm.**