

Task Based Activities

What is a task-based activity?

A task-based activity is a procedure in which students have to use the target language in order to achieve a specific outcome. The best TBL activities reflect real-life situations, so the students can see that the lesson is relevant to their own lives.

Task Based Activities

There are a number of activities you can use for task based language teaching. Here are some very practical things to consider doing in your classes.

1. Vacations

A common task-based learning activity for students is to get them to plan a vacation they're going to take together as a group and then do a short presentation about it to the class, or submit a written assignment or video explaining it.

2. Presentations

Students can be assigned a presentation topic in class, about any current event. That way, students are free to choose whatever interests them, instead of letting my own interests dictate their learning.

3. Essays

essay can be assigned for homework, it'll give students the freedom to choose any topic they want. The only requirement is that they check in with me before starting so that they don't go down the wrong track and waste time on something that is either too basic or too difficult.

4. Directions and Task Based Language Teaching

Another common context is something like directions. This works well because there is most definitely a reason why students have to talk to each other and a task to complete (finding a new location).

5. *Current Events Poster and Presentation*

An interesting activity I often do in my classes is to get my students to choose a current event that's happening. Then, they have to make a poster and do a short presentation about it to the class.

6. *Information Gap Activities*

Information gap activities are where each student has only half the information and they have to work together to get the complete picture. This is done by talking.

7. *Conduct an Interview and Report Results*

A fun way to get students talking to each other about things they're interested in is to get them to survey their classmates about one specific question. Once they've talked to at least 10 of them, they can take a look at their results and analyze them. Finally, they can report to the class what they learned.

8. *Plan a Class Party*

If your course is coming to an end and you want to have a class party or celebration of some kind, get the students to plan the party for you! Set up some group rules first, including the following:

- time/date of the party
- location
- budget

Then, students can make some plans, give a short presentation to the class and finally vote on which one you'll do.

9. *Role Plays*

A nice activity to include in a task-based lesson plan is a role play. This is particularly true if your students are studying English for a specific purpose (travel, medical or business English, etc.). The task is that students have to accomplish a certain thing.

More Ideas for Task Based Learning

If you need some more ideas for how to do TBL with your students, here are just a few ideas:

Making a phone call to make a reservation, or complain about something

Write an email in English for work

Visiting the doctor

Gathering information to make a poster or advertisement

Make a short movie

Plan a road trip

Finding something is a common

What are the Steps in a Task Based Learning Lesson Plan?

When you're designing a lesson plan for this style of class, there are a number of important steps to follow. Here's a bit of information about each of them:

Pre-Task

In this stage, the teacher introduces the topic and gives instructions on what will happen at the task stage. Basically, the requirements of the project that students will have to complete. You could also introduce the language that may be useful to help complete the task, although students may have to discover more for themselves.

The Task

The goal of this stage is to make your expectations for the task clear and to give students some tips, language, ideas, etc. for how they can proceed (if necessary).

Planning

During this phase, students can prepare a short report (written or spoken) about what happened during their task. They can practice what they're going to say in their group and the teacher can offer some assistance if needed.

Report

Students report to the class about what happened during their task. The teacher can also offer feedback.

Analysis

At this point, the teacher can highlight the language students used during the report phase. If you recorded the report phase, you may play this back for the students to notice any language used.

What are the Advantages of Task Based Learning

task-based learning had a number of advantages over this traditional model, including the following:

- **Students control the language they learn and produce, rather than being restricted to something pre-selected by the teacher or text.**
- **Task-based learning allows for a natural setting of the context where students can base their learning on their own experiences. This makes learning far more personal and relevant to your students in many cases.**
- **Language learning can arise from student need, instead of what the next unit is in the textbook. This makes it more memorable for learners.**
- **Errors are a natural part of the learning process in TBL and are seen as a learning opportunity.**
- **Students are generally very motivated to complete the tasks because it's something they've chosen to do and it relevant to them.**