

## **APPENDIX-II**

### **Four Basic Techniques**

#### **1. Brainstorming (BS)**

Brain is the centre of learning. No learning can take place without brain. We have to frequently use BS Method to activate the brains of our learners. This can be done in many ways. We can write a word, for example 'rain' on the BB and ask our learners to come up with words that relate to the word 'rain' like –storm, umbrella, flood, mud———etc. Similarly we can introduce a topic from the textbooks of students by writing the title on the BB, then use BS to help learners predict the possible contents of the topic. Any writing, be it a paragraph, an essay or a letter can start with BS. In real life we often storm our brain to solve our day to day problems. If we have not done this before, let's make this a part of our present teaching.

#### **2. Visual Memory Development Technique (VMDT)**

Those who are endowed with powerful visual memory are found to learn faster. Whatever they see gets visually printed in their minds. In fact each one of us is endowed with visual memory. By closing our eyes, we can mentally see places, even persons, that we had seen long before. Our eyes act as cameras and our brain as computers to store what we see. But unfortunately our students while learning do not use their visual memory to the extent they do in their real life. Thus, the visual memory of our learners can be developed by systematic use of VMDT. Ask students, after they read the text, to take a photograph of the text with their eye cameras. Then close the book and ask them to locate words and phrases in the text (at the top, bottom, left, right, middle of the text). The students can also be trained to use this method on their own. They read a paragraph, take a mental photograph of the paragraph in their eye cameras. Next they cover the page and ask themselves to locate important words from the text by touching the cover with their index fingers. Then they remove the cover and see whether they have rightly located the word. This they can keep on doing till the paragraph gets printed in their brains. Students enjoy VMDT activities very much. Use of the method over a period of time helps learners to memorise contents.

#### **3. Mental Talk (MT)**

This is a very good method for learning language, particularly a second language like English. Language is a very complex matter. How humans pick up

language so quickly, particularly the small ones do so at homes. Earlier, it was thought that language was mostly learned by speaking. Language is verbal. But current researches have shown that language is more mental than verbal. We learn language so quickly and so fast because most of the time, without being aware, we mentally talk. This mental talk helps us master a language which is so complex.

But the thing is we mentally talk in our mother tongue. But it is possible, with a little conscious effort, to mentally talk in English. Suppose we are going to the market to buy certain things, usually we mentally talk (First I'll go to the medicine shop——) and plan. But with conscious efforts, we can do this in English. And once our learners begin to do this, learning of English becomes easy on his/her part. This has two benefits: One, in our context, there is little scope to speak in English, which is why we fail to learn English. Second, even when we get the chance to speak English, we hesitate to speak in English for fear of going wrong. Mental talk provides us the scope to use English without fear of going wrong.

Our students can be encouraged to mentally talk in English. We can call them to mentally repeat lines from a poem they have. Our students can be encouraged to mentally talk in English. We can call them to mentally repeat lines from a poem they have read or a dialogue they have practised to start with.

#### **4. Chain-drill**

Chain-drill is an utterance of a word, a phrase or a sentence, a line from a text or the title of a story – which the learners of a class repeat one after another in a serial order, usually at the beginning or at the end of a lesson. Students can also be asked to introduce themselves through chain-drills. For example, "I'm \_\_\_\_\_. I am from \_\_\_\_\_. What about you?" Chain-drill has the advantage of making everyone in a class speak something. Apparently, chain-drills seem boring but in reality it is interesting. When used, many think it is waste of time for many as one has to wait too long to get his/ her chance. But during this time the person waiting for his/her turn, in fact, keeps on mentally repeating what s/he plans to say when his/her turn comes. It is, therefore, not a waste of time as mental repetition helps one learn language and remember things better.