

Activity Type

Reading, listening and speaking activity, pairwork

Language Focus

Parts of the body

Action verbs

Aim

To practice parts of the body and action verbs

Preparation

A popular dance song

Level

Elementary

Time

20 minutes

Introduction

Here is a lighthearted musical activity that helps to promote creativity.

Procedure

Before you begin, review parts of the body and action verbs with the students.

Examples:

Parts of the body: arms, ears, knees, feet, nose, head, etc

Action verbs: walk, jump, wiggle, shake, clap, spin, run, kick, point, tap, etc.

Next, create a large space in the classroom and have the students stand in the space.

Give the students some basic instructions and have them follow along, e.g. 'Put your hands on your knees.' 'Put your hands on your head.' 'Shake your right leg,' etc.

You could even play a game of 'Simon says' to practice the language.

Then, tell the students that they are going to create a new dance routine.

Play a popular dance song in the background and suggest the first set of actions, e.g. 'Wave your hands in the air.' 'Put your hands on your hips.'

Write the sentences on the board and have the students do the actions.

Next, divide the students into pairs and ask them to decide what actions they think should come next.

Then, choose pairs of students to suggest the next dance moves.

As each new set of movements is suggested, write them on the board.

As you write the dance moves on the board, ask the students to read them and do the actions.

When you have a long list of dance moves, play the music again and practice the dance routine as a class.

Finally, have the pairs practice alone and then come up one by one and do the dance routine in front of the class. Award points for each performance or have the class vote for the best pair of dancers.