

ENRICHMENT OF COMMUNICATION SKILLS THROUGH NEWSPAPERS

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Abstract:

Teaching is an art, especially language teaching is really a difficult task for rural students. However, many strategies have been innovating to teach the English language to the students, of course, the communicative approach may enable a teacher to impart communication skills. In this process, newspapers are efficacious to employ in a classroom situation to generate interest to learn the language. The present paper focuses on the importance of using newspapers in the classroom. In fact, newspapers can aid the stakeholders to learn vocabulary, sentence structure and presentation of ideas. As well, it would assist the aspirant to develop writing skills. English newspapers such as the Hindu, The Indian Express, The Deccan Chronicle, The Lens India etc. are highly helpful for the seekers to enhance the command over the English language. The proposed paper studies systematically various aspects involved in mastering the language through newspapers.

Keywords: Innovation, stakeholders, efficacious, enhance, generate, importance, vocabulary, writing skills.

Introduction:

Each morning we need a cup of tea and the daily newspaper. How much do we feel irritated if the newspaper boy does not bring to us the newspaper at the appointed time?

The newspaper is a primary need than a cup of tea. Newspapers are also like a potion to which we seem to be deeply addicted. Everyone in the family will have a glance once the newspaper is thrown in the early hours of the day. If one is interested in politics the other would like to know about share rates and the young folks try to know about cricket match happened in the previous night. Thus the newspapers have become the vital need for everyone in all the families. The newspapers bring information from all parts of the world. Newspapers do not only inform us, they even instruct us and help us, influence us to form our opinion on important issues.

For teachers, the newspapers are living textbooks. The newspapers can be used for enhancing the skills in reading, listening, speaking and writing. The newspapers can help the heterogeneous teachers at different levels. The newspapers can surely widen the curriculum with an unlimited amount of information. The newspapers can replace the texts and motivate the teaching and learning process in Language classroom. A sample text i.e. a newspaper article will be used in the classroom to teach Communication, Grammar, Vocabulary, Comprehension, Precise Writing, Creative Writing, Letter-Writing, Punctuation and holistically motivate the students to switch over from the Texts to Article reading to improve the Speaking, Reading, Listening and Writing skills.

Headlines: The students can learn to form complete sentences from the Headline. A discussion on the problem of Fee reimbursement can be held. The students can express different problems and suggest solutions. This helps the student to read, think, speak, discuss and share their views on their own. They can write an article on their own. By reading and listening to the headlines, they can interpret the news, increase their general awareness and develop their logical thinking. News clippings can be distributed to the students and they can be asked to give a suitable title for it. This helps the student to gain knowledge in current affairs.

Mind Gapping: Student determines the main idea and relevant details in a passage.

The preferred students have to choose an article from any newspaper which they think is interesting for them. They can write a few more words or sentences to support the ideas on a piece of paper.

Grammar and Composition: The students can be instructed to identify the articles, verbs, prepositions etc. from a paragraph. The articles can be deleted and given to the students to fill in. Direct speech can be converted into reported speech and vice-versa. After reading the newspaper, the students can write about a topic that they liked. It helps them in expressing their opinions.

Fun with Nouns:

Student correctly identifies parts of speech-nouns. Review the definition of a noun with your class. Then have them select a story from the front page of today's newspaper and find the nouns. They can underline the people they find in red, the place in blue and the things in green.

Group Discussions and Debate: The students can discuss their views on the various issues and share their ideas with the other students. They can debate on the current burning issues. This helps them to interact, communicate with each other and gain strong confidence, work on the current topics and as a team preparing for their future.

Role Play: Choose an interesting article or story from the newspaper and make enough copies for every pair of learners.

There would be some stories in the newspaper which can be adapted to play as a role plays.

Ask the readers and learners to read the newspaper which can be ideal for role plays. Usually, the role plays from newspapers are conducted in ways:

1) One learner plays the journalist and the other plays the protagonist of the story, the journalist does an interview,

Or

2) Learners each take the role of a person in the story and act out the story, or something that happens before or after the story.

3)

Book Reviews: Book reviews are published to give us a picture of the newly published books. The students will be motivated to read books once they go through the book reviews and find it interested. The students can be instructed to read a book of their choice and write a review. It develops a taste for literature and reading.

Film Reviews: The students can read the review of a movie. It gives them an idea of writing a review. The teacher can ask the students to write a review of the movie they had watched very recently.

Sports Glossary: Different students avail different roots to analyze words. As students play well they try to choose articles from sports sections. They usually skim and scan the information available in the sports column. Then they have to write some picked words and have to narrate the selected words.

Letter Writing: Letter to the Editor column in the newspaper will motivate the students to draft letters expressing their views.

Advertisements and Job opportunities: The students can go through the advertisements pertaining to their career and prepare their covering letter and resume for the different post, keeping in view the requirement for different posts. They will get to know the different organizations pertaining to their field, their objectives, etc. The students can learn to write notices, circulars, and memos by going through the different notifications given in the newspaper.

Advertisement-Civil: The students of Civil Engineering can come across articles related to the construction of buildings, dams, roads, bridges, Metro rail projects etc. The recent trends in designing and architecture will help them to be updated and develop their logical thinking.

Computers: The details of the new areas of software related to gadgets and technology are published in the newspapers. The companies publish a report on the recent advancements.

This information will help students a lot.

Mechanical: The newspaper gives the details of the cars and bikes, the new models, its advantages, capacity, mileage, safety measures etc. updating the automobile trends.

EEE: Electro-gadgets like Mobile Phones, Televisions, LCD, LED, 3D, iPod, Geysers, Transistors, etc. their details are advertised in the newspaper to spread awareness about the product. Exhibitions are organized and the venue and dates are given.

Brief News Items: Give each pair of learners one of this news items and ask them to write a headline for it on a separate slip of paper. Collect all the stories and the headlines. Then there should be adding them on the board and need to keep them on the learners to match the stories and the top headings.

Picture Description: The photographs published in the newspaper can help the students to develop a keen observation, creativity and a logical thinking. The students can be instructed to observe the picture carefully make a note of it, write it down and give a title to it. Once the students have completed it, they can read it out and see for their thought process. A discussion can be motivated in the classroom.

Monthly Magazine: Student uses a variety of reading materials to develop personal preferences in reading materials and locates and organizes written information.

The information has to be spread among the students as in charge of a cover for a very vital magazine.

Comics and You: Student identifies details and uses the information to construct meaning and make inferences. The students will look at the comic and funny scripts of respective days newspaper . They will surely make a list of the comic and funny things in common and the differences in them.

Newspapers

Key Points: Use English language newspapers produced for the local community if possible.

Allow learners to select an article that interests them, work on it and report back to other learners.

Be clear on aims. Is it reading or speaking you wanted to practice? or both? The learners have to read the information outside of the classroom to analyse and think. Make your tasks as authentic as the material. The works should be used in all the verb forms and be used sparingly. Need to think about folks when they read the news in their native language. If you can get your learners to regularly dip into English newspapers then their reading skills, writing skills and vocabulary will improve.

Need to talk about strategies when they read the comprehension of English texts.

How long and often they use the dictionaries for instance? At the end of a course, do they feel them reading faster or better?

Conclusion:

Newspapers are a mirror of public opinion too. With the help of the columns, the public can represent their views related to national and international issues apart from writing letters to the editors. Reading plays an indispensable role in reading the newspapers. There lies the beauty of the English classroom because every day is the fresh beginning and a fresh day. Stories usually unfold as researchers and reporters reveal the information to reconstruct what has happened. There is truly a no better record of the world's happenings than a newspaper.

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