

I'm not robot!

A key challenge for any ESL teacher, whether experienced or a recent graduate, is to keep students engaged, and one of the best ways to do this is to incorporate some classroom games to make learning more fun and exciting! Games also make great rewards for students who do well in class, or as a "treat" if the class focuses on their core work during the body of the lesson. As a teacher, having a few 5 minute activities that require little resource can be hugely helpful if a lesson finishes a bit earlier than expected. Here's our top 10 simple games to implement in the ESL classroom... \*Remember that before teaching abroad, many countries (including China), require teachers to hold a Bachelor's Degree and a minimum 120 hour TEFL qualification. You can apply for a discounted 120 hour TEFL course through Opportunity China. This is a game which gives students the time to think and encourage peer learning. As they hear other students speaking, they will pick up on some words. Have all the students form a circle and stand at the center with a ball. All you have to do is name a category (food, places, hobbies, etc.) and pass the ball to one student. Let them toss it to another student as they name a word related to the theme. If they repeat a word or can't say any more words, they need to sit down. The last man/student standing wins the game. This is a popular game which is similar to Pictionary. This is a great game to get your students to move. First, you have to write down a couple of words on paper. Make sure most of the students know them. Divide the class into two teams and one person from each team will choose a paper and act the word out. A team receives a point for every correctly guessed word. Pictionary is like a charade, but your students will draw, instead of acting the words out. You can use the cards from the actual board game for this activity, or make your own! Similar to charades, you also need to divide the class into two teams. One person from Team A come up to the front and draws a card/word. The student must convey the word to his or her team using only drawings. There are certain rules such as students cannot use words, symbols or hand gestures. Each student should have a time limit of 3 minutes. The first team to get 10 points is the winning team. Board Race is a fun game that is used for revising vocabulary. Here's what to do: Divide the class into two teams and give each team a colored marker. Draw a line down the middle of the board and write a topic at the top. The students must then write as many words related to the topic in a relay. The first person will write the first word and pass the colored marker to the one next in line. Score each team with one point for each correct word. Unreadable or misspelled words are not counted. Looking for a game which can help your students practice synonyms and descriptions? Try Taboo Words – suitable for more advanced learners. Divide the class into two and have the two teams sit on opposite sides of the room, facing each other. Choose one person to sit in front of their team and stand behind the students and hold a piece of paper with a word on it The team has three minutes to get the one in front to say the word on paper. They can't say the word; they can only mention synonyms and descriptions of the word you're holding. A favourite game among teachers, Hangman can be used at the start of the class to warm up the students and get them active. This is especially good for young students. First, think of a word and write the number of letters on the board using dashes to show many letters there are. Then, ask students to suggest a letter. If it appears in the word, write it in all of the correct spaces. If the letter does not appear in the word, write it off to the side and begin drawing the image of a hanging man. You have to continue this until the students guess the word correctly, your students will win. If you complete the diagram, you win. Time to test your students' memories and vocabulary! Gather 20 objects that can be found in the classroom and lay them all out on the desk. Show them all to the students and then cover everything with a blanket or a sheet after one minute. Ask the students to write down as many items they remember on a piece of paper. Write a list of the items on the chalkboard and allow students to self-correct. This game is similar to Taboo Words. You can write the name on the board and one student will guess the word. The rest of the class must guess the word by describing it. First, you have to write a word vertically on the board. Each student must come up with a word starting with each letter of the vertical word. You can change the rule and require the words to be related to the acronym. This game is a great way to fill up the last few minutes of the class. Ask the students draw six columns on their paper and write a category at the top of each column. You can choose categories that fit your topic. You can include food, names, cities or countries, furniture, verbs and clothing. Then, choose a random letter and write it on the board. Ask students to write down a word for each category that starts with that letter. Many thanks to Fazreen Razeek from Edarabia.com for sharing his knowledge. Fazreen has served the education industry for over 5 years, is extremely passionate about education technology and also writes for various local and international publications. A graduate of Edith Cowan University, Perth, Fazreen holds a Bachelor's Degree with a double major in Marketing & Management. Share: Subscribe now to keep up to date with our latest jobs, news, blog entries and partner offers. Apply online and begin your Opportunity China adventure today! Apply now Teacher resources Opportunity China Email: info@opportunity-china.com Skype ID: opportunity-china UK Address: 32 Queens Terrace, Southampton, SO14 3BQ; China Address: 3003, R&F Center B1, 73 Shangpu Rd, Taijiang District,Fuzhou, Fujian, China福建省福州市台B1座3003 © 2017 Opportunity China, All Right Reserved. Follow us Cookie policy It's no secret that colleges want you to take English class each year of high school. But what exactly are you supposed to be learning? What options do you have to exceed expectations and show off your stuff? And what if you're such a book-loving reader that in the dictionary under "bibliophile" there's a picture of you—how can you really max out your high school English experience? Read on to learn about the common core, honors and AP classes, and going beyond what the standard curriculum offers! What Do Colleges Expect? You'll be hard-pressed to find a college that doesn't expect you to have taken 4 years of English or Language Arts classes. Likewise, the vast majority of high schools require 4 years of English in order for you to graduate. These 4 years are cumulative, meaning each year builds on what you learned before, and now each year is most likely based on the common core standards. So, colleges assume that when you start freshman year, you've been learning all of this: 9th Grade is the setup year you practice basic essay-writing skills you study different literary genres you analyze narrative voice, characters, and plot 10th Grade is the building year you practice the outlining, drafting, and revising process you focus on themes and literary devices like imagery and voice 11th Grade focuses on American literature your writing gets more complex, as you do your own research and use outside sources you now start reading not just for content but also for historical context, period, setting, and point of view this is a good year to take American history as well 12th Grade looks out at the world you read British literature and sometimes world literature, depending on your high school you put all your skills together, analyzing complex literature and nonfiction you produce research papers, presentations, and maybe even multimedia projects this may be a good year to also take European or world history Common Core Reading Standards There's... a lot of choice. Having a guide helps. Want to know the type of books colleges assume you will have read by the time you get in? Here are some examples of what the common core standards want you to be reading in high school, broken down by year: Literature: Stories, Drama, Poetry Informational Texts: Literary Nonfiction and Historical, Scientific, and Technical Texts 9th - 10th Grade The Tragedy of Macbeth by William Shakespeare (1592) "Speech to the Second Virginia Convention" by Patrick Henry (1775) "Ozymandias" by Percy Bysshe Shelley (1817) "Farewell Address" by George Washington (1796) "The Raven" by Edgar Allan Poe (1845) "Gettysburg Address" by Abraham Lincoln (1863) "The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry (1906) "State of the Union Address" by Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1941) The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck (1939) "Letter from Birmingham Jail" by Martin Luther King, Jr. (1964) Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury (1953) "Hope, Despair, and Memory" by Elie Wiesel (1997) The Killer Angels by Michael Shaara (1975) 11th - 12th Grade "Ode on a Grecian Urn" by John Keats (1820) Common Sense by Thomas Paine (1776) Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë (1848) Walden by Henry David Thoreau (1854) "Because I Could Not Stop for Death" by Emily Dickinson (1890) "Society and Solitude" by Ralph Waldo Emerson (1857) The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald (1925) "The Fallacy of Success" by G. K. Chesterton (1909) Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston (1937) Black Boy by Richard Wright (1945) A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry (1959) "Politics and the English Language" by George Orwell (1946) The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri (2003) "Take the Tortillas Out of Your Poetry" by Rudolfo Anaya (1995) If you want a very long breakdown of what the common core recommends you study, check out their year-by-year guide. How Can I Exceed Expectations? Honors Classes These will most likely be similar to the standard classes your school offers, but the works you read will be more challenging and the assignments more complex and demanding. In other words, you'll do more work and put in more effort, but you'll be better prepared for college-level writing! Pro tip: in your school, honors classes may be a prerequisite for AP classes. AP English Classes There are two AP English options: AP English Language and Composition if your school offers both AP English classes, this is the one you'll take Junior year this class and exam are all about how writers do what they do: how they use rhetoric, genre, style, and how they play with audience expectations AP English Literature and Composition if your school offers both AP English classes, this is the one you'll take senior year this class and exam have to do with critical analysis, close reading, literary structure, themes, as well as imagery IB Diploma Classes There are three IB literature options: Language A: Literature this course focuses on the analysis of literary texts Language A: Language and Literature this class takes the analysis further by looking at both literary and non literary genres, and by considering how the context of writing or reading something affects its meaning Literature and Performance this class is all about the relationship between literature and theater, focusing on close reading, critical writing and the aesthetic and symbolic elements of performance Both Language A classes are offered in a variety of languages, and Literature and Performance can be taken in French or Spanish by special request, so these may be great options for non-native speakers or bilingual students. Some IB diploma classes can be taken online, but the closest you'll come to English online is the Film SL class, which is all about the history, formal elements, technical production, and of course critical analysis of film. What If I'm an English Class Junkie? Is There More? Please, sir, may I have some more... English class? In this bowl, for some reason? Check Out Your School's Electives This is the time to think just a little bit outside the box! For example, classes in creative writing offer a great window into later being able to see how someone else did it. Electives in the humanities can often offer what is basically a modified literature class. And there are many other subjects that focus on reading, analyzing, and writing about texts—subjects like philosophy, theater studies, world religions, psychology, or anthropology. Design Your Own Course Your school is your resource, so don't be afraid to get creative. Consider asking a teacher to help you set up an independent project or independent study to explore your interests! For example, in my senior year, on top of my coursework, with the help of my favorite English teacher I designed an independent study of reading and writing poetry. It was incredibly rewarding! Take High School Classes Online For instance, Stanford University has an online high school which features 7 English courses and lets you enroll to take as many of them as you want. Brown University also offers a set of online pre-college courses. They have 4 related classes on nonfiction, travel writing, formal college writing, and a humanities seminar on evolutionary thought. Take Summer Classes on College Campuses You can check out our guide to the Summer Institute for the Gifted or all the info we have collected about Stanford's two summer programs. Take Some Online College-Level Classes Are you super confident in your abilities or interested in something specific you can't find anywhere else? Maybe the best thing for you to do is prove yourself on a whole another level! Just think, doing well on a college-level course will look great on your transcript, and you might even get college credit for it! What's Next? Need to improve your acquaintance with key literary terms? Use our articles on personification, imagery, rhetorical devices, point of view, literary elements, assonance, and iambic pentameter to aid you in your quest. Still wrestling over whether AP or IB is better? Check out our guide to deciding between them. Curious how your writing skills will apply to the SAT? Read about how to improve your SAT writing score, or better yet, how to get a perfect 800 and how to get a 12 on the SAT essay. And don't forget to read about the ACT Writing test and SAT essay. One of the single most important parts of your college application is what classes you choose to take in high school (in conjunction with how well you do in those classes). Our team of PrepScholar admissions experts have compiled their knowledge into this single guide to planning out your high school course schedule. We'll advise you on how to balance your schedule between regular and honors/AP/IB courses, how to choose your extracurriculars, and what classes you can't afford not to take.

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