

33 Ideas for the Languages Classroom



*THE SPRING 2021
EDITION*

www.languagesroadshow.com.au

Classroom magic

33 is a magic number!

(At least that's what I read on someone's Instagram this week and our original idea of 101 ideas was perhaps a bit much for one document)

Welcome to your **fresh burst** of inspiration for the Languages classroom - the Spring 2021 edition.

Some ideas are our own, others have been adapted from other teachers' ideas. We've included links to credit these people and to allow you to check out their great work!

Print a copy and pass it around the staffroom - a lot of these ideas could be used in non-Languages classes, too.



Ideas compiled by Lauryn Hawkins and Kelly Harrison

Edited by Kelly Harrison

Meet Lauryn!



Lauryn is a Sales and Marketing Assistant and Junior Content Creator here at Languages Roadshow. Her language background is in Japanese and she is currently completing a Bachelor of Primary Education in Brisbane. Lauryn came up with over 100 ideas for this project, which means we have a few in the bank for future editions (and she has plenty of ideas up her sleeve for her next prac!) Her personal favourites in this edition are #11 and #29 so be sure to check those out.



Speaking and Writing Activities

1. CREATE A PODCAST

Choose a theme and have students record themselves either delivering a monologue-style episode or an interview with another classmate or TL speaker. Share the audio with the class and encourage students to engage with each others' content through comments.

2. TONGUE TWISTERS

Find a few different tongue twisters in the TL and set students the challenge of being the first to learn to say them correctly. Allow short practice intervals as transition or start / end of lesson activities.

3. THAT'S A CLASSIC!

Find a series of 'daggy' jokes in the TL, group the students and assign a joke to each group. Allow the kids to try and work out the joke, give some help if need be and then have one student from each group 'perform' the joke for the class. You could link the jokes to a vocabulary set you are focussing on (eg. family, animals)

4. THEATRE RESTAURANT

Set up a restaurant role-play. Provide students with the necessary phrases and then let them get creative with funny situations like complaints and sudden reasons they need to leave the restaurant (cue students asking you how to say 'diarrhoea' - it's inevitable)

5. ROLEPLAYS FOR FLUENCY

Idea from:

<https://www.fluentu.com/blog/educator/how-to-teach-a-language-to-beginners/>

An activity for working on fluency. Provide students with scripts so they are focussing on speaking rather than having to think of what to say.

Possible situations:

- Meeting a friend of a friend for the first time
 - Paying a bill at a restaurant
 - Taking a pet to the vet
 - Buying a train ticket

6. FOUR CORNERS

Idea from:

<http://www.connectwithlanguages.com/engagement-and-hands-on-activities>

Teacher poses a question in the target language. Each corner in the room is labelled with an answer.

Students go to the corner where their answer is located and form a small circle or two small rows to allow for interpersonal communication. Once in the corner and in circle or row, students must explain the "why" of their choice.

If giving reasons is new language for your students, have the necessary language scaffolded on the board.

Unhelpful note from Kelly: This sort of game always reminds me of that 'Monte Carlo' game they'd play at the Skateaway rollerskate rink when I was a kid!

Fun!

7. YOU CAN CHOOSE

Display a set of ways in which students can choose to complete their work. All students can work on the same theme, focussing on the same language goals but a choice in medium / mode may be motivating for students. For example:

- create a poster or mindmap
- create a video
- complete a reading task
- write an acrostic poem
- listen to a piece of audio and answer questions
- create a quiz for the class

These could also be set up as stations that students cycle through over a series of lessons.

8. PICTURE IN THE HAT

Print and cut out a selection of images (foods, places, people, etc). Place these in a hat. As a warm up, choose a student to pick out an image from the hat. This image becomes their prompt. They are to think of a sentence where they can talk about this image. If students are beginners, it could be helpful to have a sample of sentence patterns they are familiar with on the board.

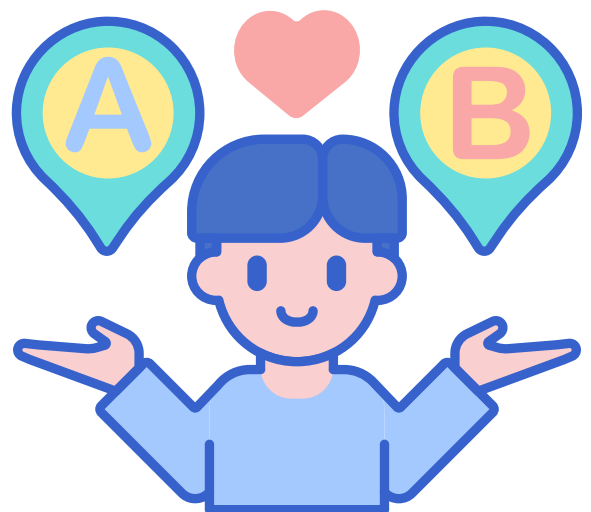
9. THE POWER OF IMAGES

Display a series of images. Have students describe what they see in 30 words or less or even just offer one word reactions to focus on emotion related words

<http://www.connectwithlanguages.com/engagement-and-hands-on-activities>

10. TELL ME WHY

Display a set of images relating to a particular vocabulary set and have student decide which they prefer out of the options (like 'this or that'). Have students explain their preference in TL.





Reading and Listening Activities

11. STREET TALK

'Easy Languages' is a non-profit video project with the aim of helping people learn languages through authentic street interviews. The videos also showcase the street culture of the participating partner countries, through its portrayal of typical, everyday situations. Episodes focus on different topics, and are produced at various locations around the globe. Every Easy Languages video is subtitled in its local language and in English.

<http://www.easy-languages.org/>

12. DUOLINGO STORIES

This language learning platform provides audio stories and exercises online.

Duolingo has a great range of languages but the story component currently only features German, Spanish, French, Portuguese and Italian.

<https://www.duolingo.com/stories/>

NOTE: There's a really interesting podcast episode on 'How I Built This' that profiles the founder of Duolingo

13. GET ZEN

Find a meditation track on Youtube in the target language. Highlight some key vocab to the students before the exercise so they can follow along.

For the Japanese teachers, we have a meditation resource on the Languages Roadshow website (and we are working on translating this into other languages, too). Click on the yoga resources at the link below

www.languagesroadshow.com.au/resources

14. GRADED READERS

If you have some spare budget, a set of graded readers for your classroom could be a great investment. Some authors (such as Alison von Dietze at nihongoshop.com even provide accompanying songs and other resources)

<https://www.nihongoshop.com>

Creating a comfy reading corner could provide a peaceful timeout for students and also a chance for differentiation



Vocab Activities

15. LADDER RACE

Idea from <https://www.rajclassroom.com/2019/03/language-games-for-teaching-and.html>

- Draw two ladders on the board. Make sure that the number of rungs in the ladder is the same as the number of pupils in a team.
- For example: a team of 10 pupils = a ladder with 10 rungs.
- To demonstrate, write school on the bottom rung of the ladder. Pupils have to think of a word beginning with the last letter of the word which is 'l' "Lemon", for example.
- Write 'lemon' on the next rung of the ladder.
- Pupils now have to think of the word beginning with the last letter of lemon and so on.

rabbit
neighbour
lemon
school

- Put the pupils into teams and the teams line up facing the board.
- You can decide on a topic for the ladder race words, e.g. new words in a lesson, things in the school, animals, birds, places, and parts of the body...etc(then all the words on the ladder must be the related to the topic.)
- Decide together what the starting word will be and write this in the middle of the board (not on the ladder).
- Give each team a piece of chalk and play the ladder race.
- The first pupil in the line runs to the board and writes the first word on the bottom rung of the ladder.
- This pupil then runs back to their team, gives the pen to the next person who completes the second word and so on.
- Check that all the words are spelled correctly and are related to the topic.
- The team that gets to the top of the ladder first wins.

16. GET YOUR HIGHLIGHTERS OUT!

Present a text to the students and ask them to highlight particular words according to the key. They are to use the different colours to represent a key of your choosing (eg: red for nouns, blue for verbs and so on)

Good chance to review colours and to teach students some grammatical terms in the TL.



17. UNO IS LOTS OF FUN, UNO IS NUMBER 1

Using a deck of UNO cards, have groups of 2-3 students pick out a set number of cards. Students lay out the cards in a line and attempt to read the number they have created. This is a great way to challenge the students with big numbers.

18. WORDS BEGINNING WITH..

<https://theidealteacher.com/excellent-vocabulary-ideas-tor-revise-words-in-the-language-classroom>

How many words can you write down beginning with any letter of the alphabet? To make this vocabulary challenge topic-related, add a theme that the students must stick to, i.e. Food & Drink or Holidays. Timed vocabulary activities can often be the most fun, as students have a sense of competition and often enjoy trying to compete against their peers. Sometimes, I get students to compete with each other to see who has the most vocabulary that no-one else in the lesson has written down. A little treat always helps for the winner!

19. PASS IT FORWARD

<https://theidealteacher.com/excellent-vocabulary-ideas-tor-revise-words-in-the-language-classroom>

1. Sit students in groups of 4-5 in seated rows of tables facing a whiteboard
2. Beforehand, print out 10-15 images related to whatever topic you like on the back table.
3. Describe something from one of the images, i.e. 'das blaue Hemd' (The blue shirt)
4. The person on the back table must choose correct image and pass it forward to the person nearest whiteboard to stick on the whiteboard.
5. First team to put it on correctly and sit down again wins.

NOTE: If others disagree as they are passing it forward, they can pass it back and try again. Also, you can get students to move one chair back after each round. Watch out though, this option can be hard to manage!

NOTE: We found so many great ideas at the ideal teacher.com page

10/10 recommend!

20. VOCAB ACROSTIC

<https://theidealteacher.com/excellent-vocabulary-ideas-for-revising-words-in-the-language-classroom>

1. Supply a topic, i.e. Travelling, Education, Health etc and write the word down one side of the whiteboard
2. Students must write one-topic related word which starts with each letter of the word on the whiteboard, i.e.

Trip

Ride

Aeroplane

Voyage

Excursion

Lake

Look

Indicate

Norway

Gallivant

3. Share ideas at end.

21. SEMANTIC GRADIENT

Idea from Speech and Language Development Australia

www.salda.org.au

"A semantic gradient is a vocabulary teaching tool that involves placing related words on a scale or gradient. The purpose of this activity is to help students discern shades of meaning among words that are related, including emotion words."

Students can be provided with (or create) a variety of vocab cards and then arrange them according to intensity. Emotion words would be a great starting point but you could try a whole range of descriptive words (eg. disgusting through to delicious, despise through to adore and even colours like sky blue through to navy blue)

A great literacy activity for any classroom.





ICT Resources

22. MAKE SURE YOU CHECK IN WITH THE QR CODE...

<http://www.qurify.com/en/>
https://www.aatsp.org/page/cr_sites_multiling

QR Voice is a free tool that can be used to create QR codes that will play a short audio message when scanned. Type in your message or click on the microphone icon to create your QR code. All messages, whether spoken or written, are limited to 100 characters. QR Voice is available in 40 languages. Students can access these messages with a smartphone or other device with a QR code scanner. QR codes can be used to link to videos, slide shows, photos, vocabulary pronunciation practice, homework assignments, individualised help, reminders, listening scavenger hunts, blogs, newspaper articles and more.

23. IMMERSEME

<https://immerseme.co>

ImmerseMe brings language practise and virtual reality together. Currently has nine languages with more coming in the future! No fancy VR tech required - just a laptop or device with a microphone.

24. FLIPGRID

Flipgrid enables you to post a video prompt and then have your students respond through their device. All responses are collected and displayed in a grid format. Students can record, upload, view, react, and respond to each other's short videos.

<https://info.flipgrid.com>

25. KARAOKE TIME

'Lyricstraining' website

Through this platform, you can learn languages through music by filling in the blank song lyrics. Plenty of languages, including a romaji option for Japanese.

<https://lyricstraining.com>



Fun activities and games

26. ONLINE SHOPPING SPREE

Tell the students they have a certain amount of TL country currency to spend and they need to spend it in 15 minutes flat! A good chance to review numbers and to look at conversion rates. Let them go (fake) internet shopping and have them write down in the TL what they buy and keep a tally of the total

27. GROCERY SHOPPING

Not quite as exciting as a shopping spree but an important lifeskill nonetheless...

Direct students to a TL supermarket website. Give them a list in English and ask them to find each item

OR

Direct students to Coles or Woolies online, give them a list in the TL and ask them to find each item.

Opportunities to focus on numbers through quantity and price and also food vocabulary.

You could also build the shopping list based on a certain dish from the TL culture and then ask students to guess what they're making.

28. LEARN TO DRAW

Give students step by step instructions to create a basic picture, with all instructions delivered in the TL. Great way to incorporate a range of vocabulary and verbs.

29. NEWSPAPER MAP

This allows you to search the globe for newspaper articles in your target language.

<https://newspapermap.com/#35.33389,139.47006,11z>

30. LANGUAGE SWAP

If there is more than one language offered at your school, run a special lesson where the students from another language attend your class (and vice-versa). You could run this during Languages Week and it will promote some interesting discussion about the similarities and differences between the two languages

31. HUMAN PAC-MAN

<https://theidealteacher.com/fun-games-for-mfl-language-classrooms-no-prep>

- a) Students spread out around the room and are instructed on the rules (no talking when teacher/others are talking etc)
- b) Teacher advises a number of steps, says a word or sentences in TL or English for translation. Students put hands up and one gets picked.
- c) If the student translates correctly, they get to move that many steps and 'eat' people along the way, by gently tapping them. These students must sit down. However, they can get back in the game if no other students can translate a future word or sentence, by putting their hand up with another chance to get picked.
- d) Either teacher or the current 'pac man' gives another sentence for translation. Repeat until time is up!

32. HOUSE HUNTING

Find the equivalent of realestate.com for the TL country and let the kids explore. Great for housing vocab and also the chance to set up use of comparative language (eg. houses are more expensive in x compared to y; apartments in x are smaller than in y)

33. GET CRAFTY

Craft activities are a great way to introduce the use of more TL in the class and allow you to cover lots of basic classroom language, in a very hands on way.

We have a lesson plan for collage activity on the Languages Roadshow website.

www.languagesroadshow.com.au/resources

Do you have a favourite activity or resource? Email it to kelly@languagesroadshow.com.au and keep an eye out for our next edition!

Happy Spring everyone and may target language rain down on your class like jacarandas on your car in November

