

Classroom Language

Ideas for the classroom!

Classroom language: Why is target language important?

- It is implicated in every theory of language learning and many theories of language learning prioritise interaction as the primary site of learning (Long, 1985; Swain, 1995, 2000; Lantolf, 2000).
- Students equate the ability to speak in the target language with learning the language (it is the subject to them).
- Students believe that what they can produce in unrehearsed situations is what they really know.
- Spontaneous TL use (or lack of it) has been highlighted in every Ofsted (English school inspection) report (since records began!).

What can the teacher use target language for?

- Greetings
- Setting lesson objectives
- Classroom instructions / routines
- Task explanations
- Teaching and talking about grammar
- Asking (and answering) questions
- Spontaneous interactions
- Evaluating / Plenary tasks
- Introducing humour / jokes

How can a pupil use target language?

- Greetings
- Classroom routines
- Talking about grammar
- Asking (and answering) questions
- Spontaneous interactions
- Practice / drills
- Pair / group conversations
- Playing games
- Making jokes / introducing humour
- Leading / Being the teacher
- Give peer feedback / assessment

Top Tips for key classroom language phrases:

- Keep it consistent across the school
- Look for opportunities at other times to integrate the language into other everyday routines
- Use key language when taking the register
- Use key language when asking to go to the toilet for example
- Begin to add some additional classroom phrases as children move through Key Stage Two

Starter Activity example:

- Classroom instructions with Jacques a dit or Juan dice
- Start the lesson with a song....
- Phonics drill (Spanish) or link to words and vocabulary
- French phonics
- Passing an object around the room to focus on a key phrase
- Translation race
- Quiz quiz trade

Classroom Language: Key Phrases

- French

Entrez! **Come in**

Levez-vous! **Stand up**

Asseyez-vous! **Sit down**

Regardez la page / le tableau!

Look at the page/board

Écoutez! **Listen**

Répétez! **Repeat**

Levez la main! **Put your hand up**

Travaillez en paires! **Work in pairs**

Toute la classe! **Altogether**

Silence s'il vous plaît!

Be quiet please

Classroom Language: Key Phrases

- Spanish

¡Entrad! **Come in**

¡Levantaos! **Stand up**

¡Sentaos! **Sit down**

¡Mirad la página.../ la pizarra!

Look at the page/board

Escuchad! **Listen**

¡Repetid! **Repeat**

¡Levantad la(s) mano(s)! **Put your hand up**

¡Trabajad en parejas! **Work in pairs**

¡Todos juntos! **Altogether**

!Silencio, por favor!

Be quiet please

Classroom Language: Key Phrases

- French

E.....! **Come in**

L.....-v.....! **Stand up**

A.....-v.....! **Sit down**

R..... l.. p..... / l.. t.....!

Look at the page/board

É.....! **Listen**

R.....! **Repeat**

L..... l... m.....! **Put your hand up**

T..... e... p.....! **Work in pairs**

T..... l.. c.....! **Altogether**

S..... s.... v..... p.....!

Be quiet please

Classroom Language: Key Phrases

- French

E.....!

L.....-v.....!

A.....-v.....!

R..... l.. p..... / l.. t.....!

É.....!

R.....!

L..... l... m.....!

T..... e... p.....!

T..... l.. c.....!

S..... s.... v..... p.....!

Classroom Language: Key Phrases

- Spanish

¡E.....! **Come in**

¡L.....! **Stand up**

¡S.....! **Sit down**

¡M..... l.. p...../ la p.....!

Look at the page/board

E.....! **Listen**

¡R.....! **Repeat**

¡L..... l... m.....! **Put your hand up**

¡T..... e... p.....! **Work in pairs**

¡T..... j.....! **Altogether**

! S....., p..... f.....!

Be quiet please

Classroom Language: Key Phrases

- Spanish

¡E.....!

¡L.....!

¡S.....!

¡M..... l.. p...../ la p.....!

E.....!

¡R.....!

¡L..... l... m.....!

¡T..... e... p.....!

¡T..... j.....!

! S....., p..... f.....!

Games and activities with classroom language

- Jacques à dit (French) Simon Says....
- Juan dice (Spanish) Simon Says.....
- Using a ball or soft toy for greetings and feelings
- Using quiz quiz trade games to show children classroom language
- Sentence race game – paired translation game

Encourage independent use of target language

Using sentence prompt cards to support speaking

- Using cards with sentence prompts can support children to read and speak
- Point out links to phonics
- Demonstrate to children any grammar points
- Make this part of all lessons
- Exploit grammar/phonics

Teaching instructional language...

- You can use this when making things for example an imaginary crêpe

