

Useful classroom expressions

The more you give, the more you receive.

» **Speak properly, and in as few words as you can, but always plainly; for the end of speech is not ostentation, but to be understood.**

William PENN, founder of Pennsylvania



All the expressions we've gathered here may be used with younger or older children and have been divided into categories according to context, so that you pick and choose according to your needs.

→ Beginning the class

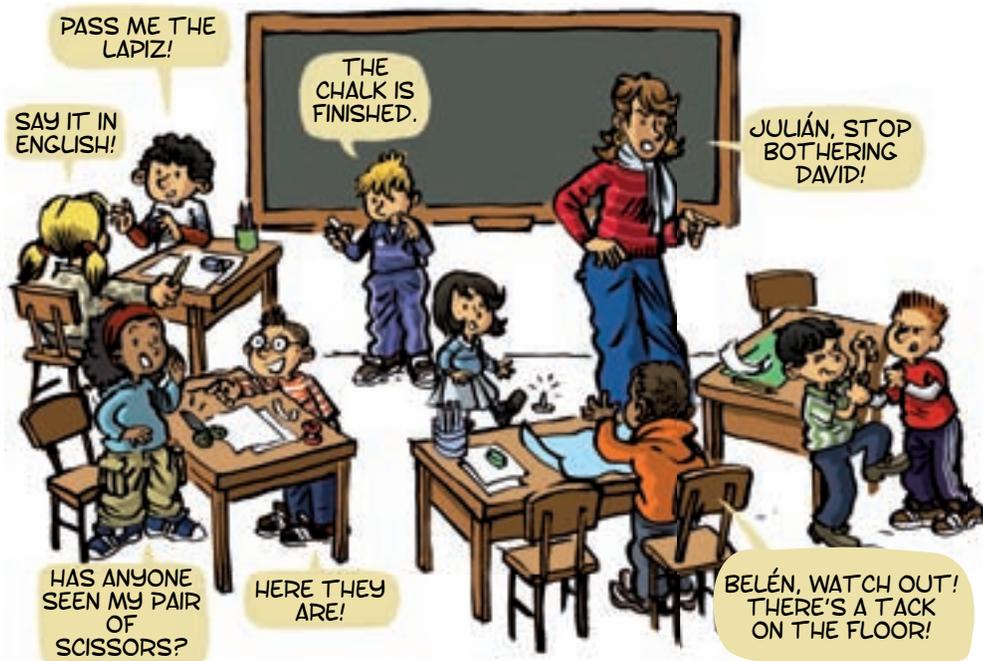
Build up a set of routines at the beginning of the class. Students will grasp this language very easily.

- Hello! Hi! Good morning! Good afternoon!
- Take off your jackets, please. Close the door, please. Write the date on the board, please.
- Take out your books, please. Give out the books, please. Alicia, share your book with Laura, please.
- Exercise one at the top of page three. Activity two at the bottom of page three. Which exercise are we doing?
- Work in groups of three. Work in pairs. Work on your own.
- Have you done your homework?
- Juan isn't here today. He is not well.
- Have you got a pencil? Can I borrow your rubber? Can you lend me a rubber, please?
- Ready? Let's start. David, you start.
- What did you say Juan?
- Just a moment. Wait a minute. Hold on a second.

→ Classroom materials

Encourage the use of English when referring to classroom materials. They are a great source of new vocabulary for all content areas.

- A sheet of paper. Has everyone got a sheet of paper?
- The textbooks. Put your textbooks in your schoolbags.
- The activity books. The activity books are on the shelf.
- The workbook. Pepe, collect in the workbooks, please.
- A flashcard. The flashcards go in that box.
- A poster. Help me stick this poster on the wall.
- A dictionary. Do you need a dictionary?
- Your picture dictionary. Draw it in your picture dictionary.
- The calendar. Hang the calendar next to the door.
- The weather chart. Let's all look at the weather chart.
- The chalk. A piece of chalk. The chalk is finished.
- Some plasticine. Get some plasticine and make an animal.
- The crayons. The crayons are Laura's.
- Felt tips. The felt tips are dry.
- Coloured pencils. Colour it in with your coloured pencils.



- A pair of scissors. Has anyone seen my pair of scissors?
- Some pots of paint. The pots of paint are empty.
- Paintbrushes. Clean your paintbrushes.
- A rubber. There's a rubber on the floor.
- Glue. Pass the glue, please.
- A piece of sellotape. Cut me a piece of sellotape, please.
- A drawing pin. A tack. Careful, there's a tack on the floor.
- A stapler. Be careful with the stapler. Staples. Don't touch the staples.
- A ruler. A ruler is for measuring.
- A cloth. Clean the table with the cloth.
- The puppet. The puppet only speaks English.
- The coloured rods. I can't find the coloured rods.
- A mask. Let's make a mask.

→ Giving instructions and asking for information

Instructions are one of the most important language functions in any bilingual setting.

- Please repeat after me. Could you repeat that, please? First listen, and then repeat. Say it with me.
- Give me some more examples, please.
- Do you understand?
- Alicia, read the next sentence. Can you read this word?
- Look at exercise two. Can you read the instructions, please?
- Keep going.
- Can you speak louder?
- What does mean? Can you spell it, please? How do you spell ... , please?



- Is this correct?
- Can you write it on the board, please?
- What's the English word for ... ?
- Could you repeat that, please? I'm sorry, I don't understand.
- What page are we on?
- Shall I go on?
- Can we play a game?
- Can I see your exercises, please? Please do the following exercises.
- Has anyone got a spare pen/pencil/rubber?
- Let's practise that again.
- Who has finished?
- Come here, please. Go back to your seat.
- Look at the board.
- Listen to the cassette. Listen to me.
- Tell me the answer. Write the answers. Read the question.
- Colour the picture. Cut it out. Draw a ... Point to the ...
- Show me your work.
- Put your pencils down.
- Watch the video.
- Say the whole sentence, please.
- Say it again, please. Say it in English, please!
- Say it more slowly.
- Copy these words into your notebooks.
- Don't start yet! You can start now.
- Come to the front, please.
- Correct your partner's work.
- Put your hand up if you don't understand. Put your hand up if you know the answer.
- Fill in the gaps.
- Match the words and the pictures. Match the words to the pictures.
- Finish the exercise.
- Do the crossword on page seven.
- Look for the words. Unjumble the sentences.
- Let's play bingo/hangman.
- Can you all see?

- Is that right?
- Pull down the blinds, please. Turn off the tap. Flush the toilet and wash your hands.
- Copy me. Follow me.
- Fold the paper. Stick it on the poster. Put it on the wall.
- Tie your shoe laces.
- Wipe your nose! Blow your nose! Use a hankie!
- Bless you!
- Hurry up!
- Hands up! Hands down!

→ Controlling the class

These expressions are among the first that students learn and start using among themselves spontaneously. Learners like to take on the teacher's role and control other classmates.

- Please be quiet! Speak quietly! Can't you speak more softly? No noise, please.
- Stop chatting! Stop speaking! Whisper, don't shout! Silence! Shut up, will you?
- Please pay attention!
- Don't do that! Don't touch! Put that away!
- Calm down! Settle down! Sit still!
- Juan, stop bothering David!
- Stop playing with your pencil.
- Stop talking and watch the video.
- Stop talking and listen, please.

→ Action games

Take the opportunity to play games outside the classroom. Playground language promotes the learning of social language.

- Let's go to the playground. Let's go to the gym. Let's go outside.
- The basketball court. The football pitch.
- The water fountain.
- A bench.
- Make two groups.
- Stand in the middle.

- Don't cross the line. Stay behind the line. Get into line.
- You're in! You're out!
- Don't cheat!
- It's not fair!
- It's your turn. It's my turn.
- Sit on the ground.
- Stand side by side.
- Stand face to face.
- Stand back to back.
- Skip!
- Hop! Jump!
- Turn around!
- Take two small steps. Take two giant steps.
- Walk like an Egyptian!
- Shake your arms!
- Wiggle your fingers/toes/bottom!
- Tickle your tummy!
- Pull your ears!
- Nod your head!
- Sit down! Stand up!
- Cross your arms.
- Lie on the mat. Sit cross-legged on the floor.
- Kneel on the floor.
- Make a circle.
- Hold hands.
- Wink your eye!
- Snap your fingers!
- Stamp your feet!
- Freeze!

→ Board games

Working co-operatively is a great way of making children talk and use the language while playing. Try to include board games in your weekly schedule and you will see how language grows in a natural way.

- The board. A square.
- A counter. A man.

- Roll the dice!
- Go forward/back two squares!
- Miss a turn!
- Take a card!
- It's your turn again.
- Here you are!
- Good luck!
- Hard cheese, better luck next time!
- Cheat!
- We won!

→ Card games

Card games are a great source of input as well as a wonderful way of working in groups.

- A pack of cards.
- Shuffle the cards! Deal out the cards!
- Turn over a card! Put the card face down/up!
- Snap!
- Me! It's my turn.
- Teacher, Pepe's cheating! Stop cheating!

→ Songs

Needless to say most learners love singing songs in English. Why not accompany the songs with some extra expressions?

- The first/second verse.
- The first/last line.
- The chorus.
- Let's sing a song!
- Everybody join in.
- Everybody together.
- Just the boys. Just the girls!
- Listen carefully.
- Listen first, then sing.
- Do the actions!
- Copy me!



→ Praise and correction

Instead of just 'good' and 'not very good' here are some more expressions you can use from the start when praising or correcting students' work.

- Brilliant! Excellent! Wonderful!
- Good! Good job! Very good!
- Great! Very well done!
- Yes, that's right. That's it!
- Nice work!
- Yes! OK!
- That's not right, try again.
- Not quite right, try again.
- That's nearly right. That's better!
- Today I'm happy/not very happy with you.

→ Ending the class

Before your students leave get them ready for their next class and leave them with a positive message.

- Stop working!
- It's time to go. It's time for lunch. It's break-time.
- See you later! See you tomorrow. See you next week! See you on Monday!
- Put away your things! Books away!
- Clean up! Tidy up!
- Put it in the bin, please!
- Put on your jackets!
- Clean the board, please.

- You worked really well today.
- We learned a lot today.
- Goodbye!/Bye-bye!/Cheerio!
- Enjoy your holidays! Have a nice weekend!

→ And something else ...

These expressions offer an excellent opportunity to teach students how to use fun English naturally!

- Couldn't you drag yourself out of bed this morning?
- Have you been playing truant?
- Hey! Wake up, your head's in the clouds!
- Stop your moaning!
- Watch what you are saying.
- Wash your mouth out with soap!
- Get your finger out!
- Don't be rude!
- Wipe that silly smile off your face!
- What's so funny?
- Stop acting the clown!
- Don't go bananas!
- Don't be a rotter!
- Mind your own business!
- This is a madhouse!
- You're driving me round the bend!
- What's all the racket about?