

OHIO TESOL CONFERENCE 2007

As was typical of previous TESOL conferences, the 2007 TESOL Conference provided its participants with a varied assortment of successful, innovative, motivational, class-room tested approaches to effective teaching/learning techniques to be used in the classroom. Of all the presentations that I attended, I was most impressed by the “Using Games in the ESOL Classroom” which was presented by Denise Shumway and Miriam Mello.

Learning the grammar, vocabulary, verb tenses, etc., of a new language can become boring if the instructor does not try to make it fun whenever possible. Therefore, I tend to use fun-filled activities to assess students’ performances in using concepts studied recently or several months or a year prior.

Besides commercially available games, I often create my own to assess specific aspects of language learning. However, I love having access to good ready-made learning games.

Playing games is fun, but getting prizes for one’s successful performance is exciting also. Therefore, I always have various types of gifts handy for both, the “winners” and the “also-rans.” If we play enough games, there are no “also-rans”—just “winners.”

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