



Acting Like

Warm-Up Activity verbal/non-verbal

- Social form:** class
- Aim:**
- warming up
 - beginning a drama lesson
- Material / Props:** Prepare little pieces of paper to serve as activity-/adverb-cards
- Duration:** Depending on the number of students, about 8 minutes

Procedure:

Hand out two pieces of paper to every student: one is an activity-card (e.g. “playing the guitar”), the other one is an adverb-card (e.g. “aggressively”). Then, ask the first actor/actress to combine the activity with the adverb and to act it out. The rest of the class tries to name the activity and the adverb.

Variation:

Use activity-cards with fixed phrases or proverbs, e.g. “God save the Queen”, “A chain is only as strong as its weakest link” in combination with adverbs referring to moods (mood-cards), e.g. “angrily” or “friendly”. Each student reads out the sentence according to the mood indicated by the mood-card.



Strike a Pose

Warm-Up Activity non-verbal

- Social form:** class
- Aim:**
- warming up
 - beginning a drama lesson
 - reading and copying body-movements
- Material / Props:** none
- Duration:** less than 5 minutes
- Based on:** <http://kidactivities.net/category/literacy-drama-and-drama-games.aspx>

Procedure:

Ask the students to secretly choose a partner. Then, all students close their eyes. As a signal for the students to reopen their eyes, use a sound. Upon this, students get up, and carefully walk around in the room trying to copy their secret partner’s movements while, in many cases, getting copied themselves.



Walking Emotions

Drama Activity
verbal

- Social form:** class / audience
- Aim:**
- expressing emotions
 - training intonation skills
 - training presentation skills
- Material/ Props:** different sentences, chair (hot seat)
- Duration:** 10 - 15 minutes
- Based on:** Elena, D. (2011): *Dramapädagogik für Englisch in der Sekundarstufe*. Buxtehude: AOL.

Procedure:

Place a “hot seat” (chair) right in the center of the classroom. Then, hand out paper slips with different sentences to the students so that each student gets one sentence. First, the students walk around with the paper slips in hand and practice the sentences using different tones and voices, miming various emotions. If a student feels ready, he/she sits in the “hot seat”, the others freeze, and the student in the center reads out his/her sentence. Encourage the other students to repeat the sentence and/or to applaud. After the presentation, the student may take another paper slip and start over, while one of the other students may take the “hot seat”.



Credible

Drama Activity
verbal

- Social form:** class / audience
- Aim:**
- collaborative experience based on a story
 - training verbal and non-verbal communication skills
 - finding out true as well as fictional aspects of an experience-based story
- Material/ Props:** none
- Duration:** 10 - 15 minutes

Procedure:

Ask two students to leave the room and create a story including true as well as false elements. The first student comes back to class and tells his/her version of the story. Then, the class asks questions. Set a limit of three to five minutes for the questioning. Afterwards, the second student comes back to class and tells his/her version. Again, the class asks questions about the story. Comparing the answers of both storytellers, the class decides which aspects of the story were true and which were false. The storytellers confirm or deny those guesses (“Yes, you’re right. I’ve made that up”, “I’m afraid you’re wrong. This was correct.”)

Variation:

You can provide a short text to trigger the initial creation of a story.



Social form:

individual

Aim:

- calming down
- ending the drama-oriented phase

Material / Props:

none

Duration:

less than 3 minutes

Based on:

Elena, D. (2011): *Dramapädagogik für Englisch in der Sekundarstufe*. AOL Verlag Buxtehude. 24.

Cool-Down Activity

non-verbal

Stepping out of the role

Procedure:

After the dramatization, the students pretend to step out of their role by pretending to take off their imaginary costumes.



Social form:

class

Aim:

- calming down
- ending the drama-oriented phase

Material / Props:

none

Duration:

5 - 10 minutes

Based on:

<<http://www.teachit.co.uk/attachments/games.pdf>>

Cool-Down Activity

non-verbal

Chinese Mime

Procedure:

The students sit in a circle and close their eyes. One student is named to be the first mime. After a while (time to come up with an idea about what to mime!), the mime taps his neighbor lightly on the shoulder, the student opens his/her eyes to watch the mime. Then, it is up to student 2 to pass the mime on to his/her neighbor. When the mime reaches the end of the circle, all students have the chance to compare the last student's and the first student's mimes.

For further considerations and teaching suggestions see:

Sambanis, Michaela (2013). *Fremdsprachenunterricht und Neurowissenschaften*, Tübingen: Narr (especially chapter IV: Bewegung & Lernen, and chapter V: Dramapädagogik). 19,99 Euro. <http://www.narr-shop.de/index.php/fremdsprachenunterricht-und-neurowissenschaften.html>