

# March 2025 Tutor Profession Development



**Making a difference, one word at a time!**

# Teaching Oral Language Skills

## Introductions

- How to best communicate with ESL/ELL students
- Top Tips for ESL Learners
- Oral Language
- Content

## BREAK

- Use
- Top 5 ESL Conversation Activities for Teens & Adults
- Active and Interactive
- Resources / Handouts
- Student – Centered



# HOW DO YOU BEST COMMUNICATE WITH ESL/ELL STUDENTS???

## 1 AVOID ACRONYMS, SLANGS, & AMERICAN EXPRESSIONS

ELL STUDENTS LEARN SLANG, ACRONYMS, AND EXPRESSIONS LATER ON IN LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT



## 2 FREQUENTLY STOP AND CHECK IF THE STUDENT UNDERSTANDS



OFTEN TEACHERS MOVE TOO FAST, SO STOP AND CHECK ON ELL STUDENTS' UNDERSTANDING



## 3 DON'T RAISE YOUR VOICE



IT CAN BE INTERPRETED AS YOU BEING ANGRY WITH THEM

## 4 SUMMARIZE



SUMMARIZING CAN BE A GOOD REVIEW BECAUSE ELL STUDENTS MAY MISS CERTAIN POINTS IN THE LESSON

## 5 HAND SIGNALS



ASSIGN SIGNALS FOR BATHROOM, NURSE, AND MORE



## 6 SPEAK SLOWLY



TURN...TO.. PAGE.. 7

GIVE THE KIDS TIME TO PROCESS

## 7 BE ANIMATED

TRY "TALKING" WITH YOUR HANDS, EXPRESSIONS, AND BODY LANGUAGE



## 8 DRAW PICTURES



THEY SAY A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS, USE IMAGES AND DRAWING TO COMMUNICATE



## 9 PRONOUNCE ALL SYLLABLES



PRONOUNCE SYLLABLES THE BEST YOU CAN, ESPECIALLY IF YOU HAVE AN ACCENT



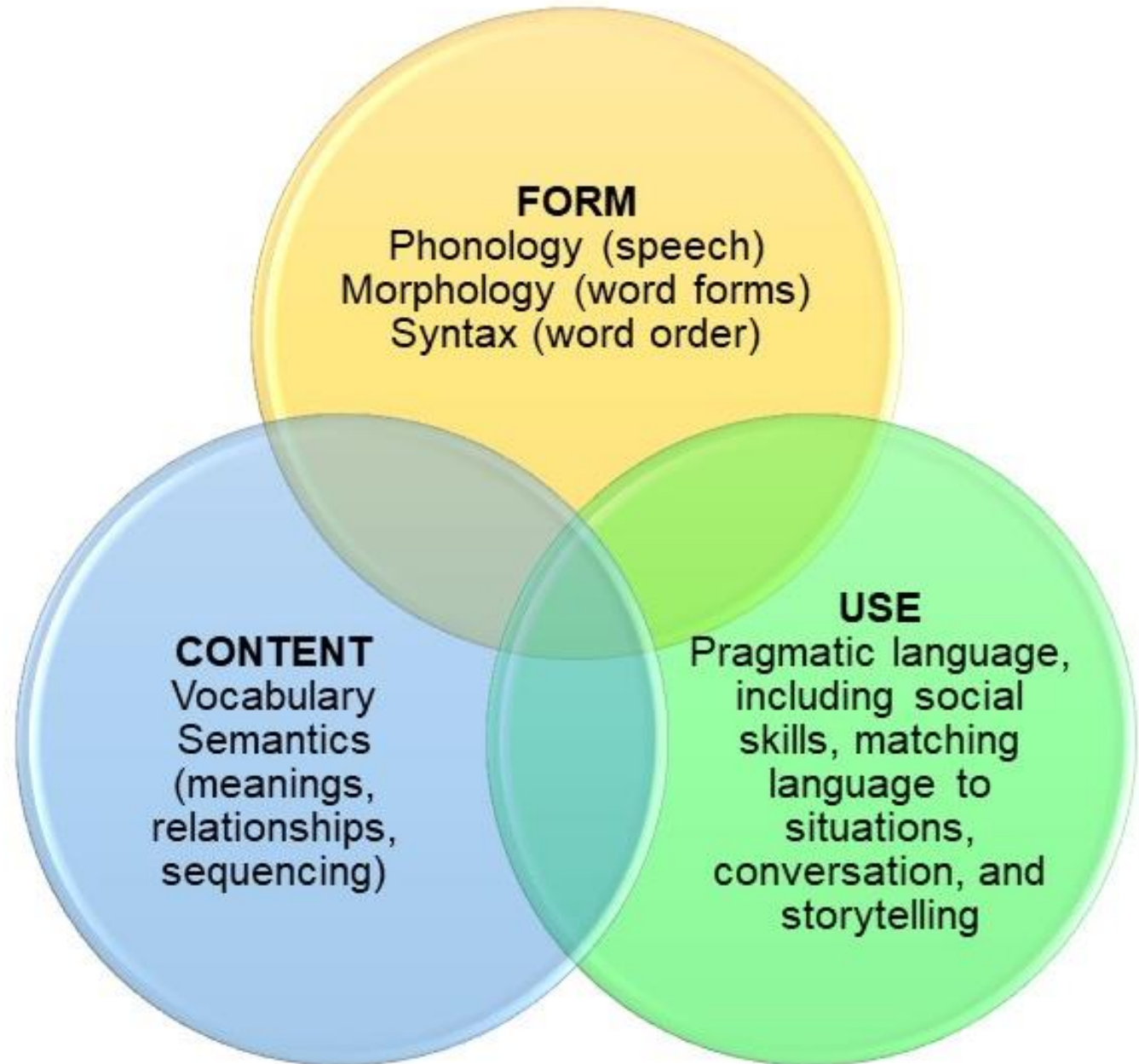
# Top Tips for Adult ESL Learners



By Peggy Semington

# Oral Language

- Which comes first?
- How are they connected?
- Language vs. Speaking?
- Which ones you work on with your student?
- **Today: Content and Use**



Bloom & Lahey, 1978.

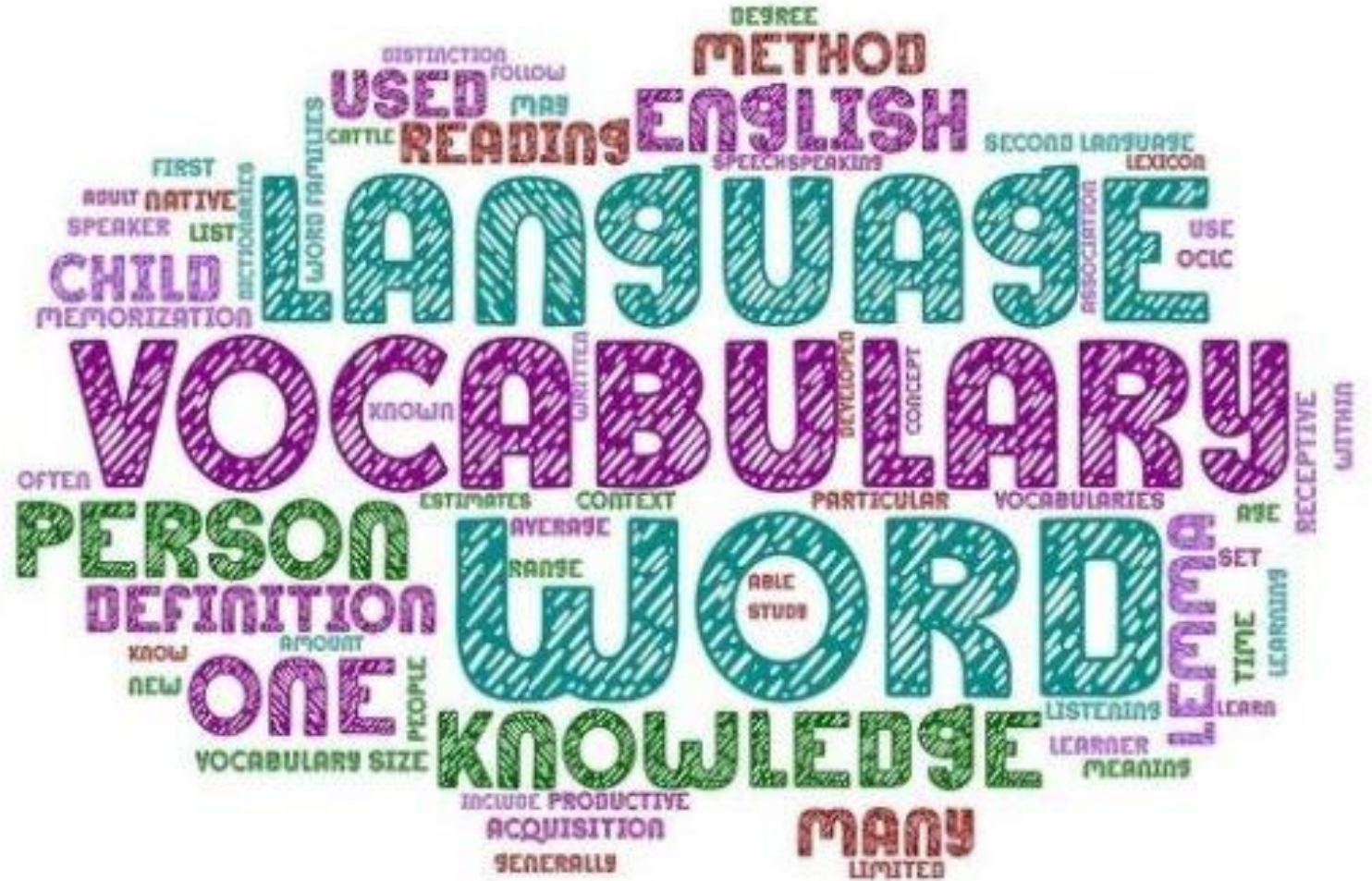
# Guidelines for Teaching Oral Skills

- **Basic:** Start with **useful and basic** words and phrases
- **Intermediate Skills:** Focus of words, phrases, grammatical structures must know for **everyday needs**
  - Applying for job / renting apartment / buying groceries
- **Don't assume** student doesn't understand a word or phrase because they are not able or reluctant to say it
  - Or understands it because they're able to say the word
- **Teach only 8 – 10 new words at a time**
- **20 or more times of exposure**
  - Expect a lot of errors
  - Correct at appropriate times
- **Be patient**

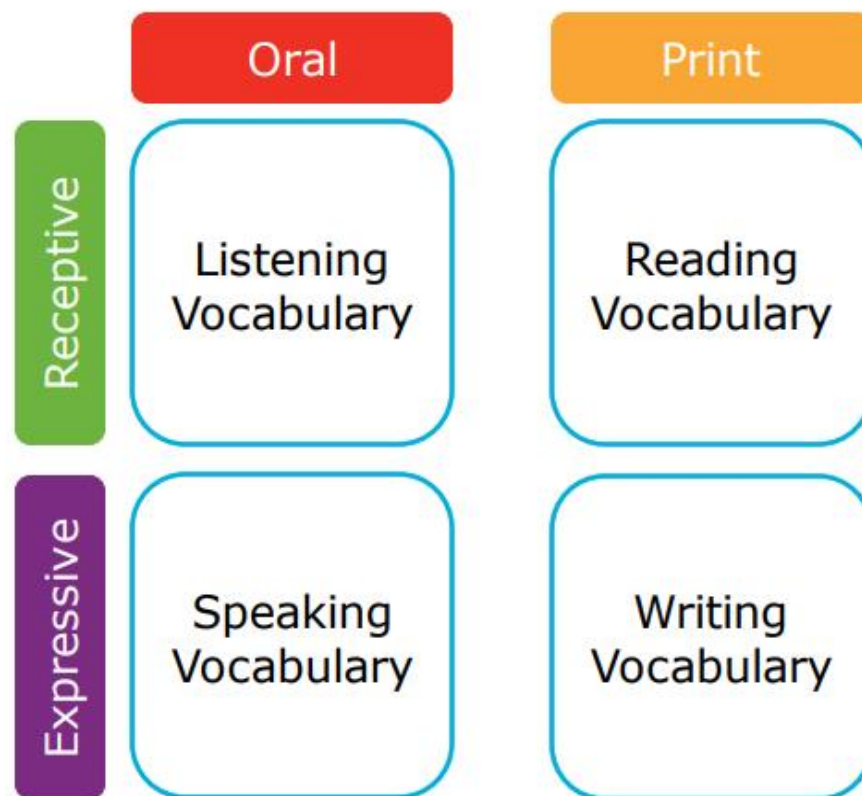


# Content

- Vocabulary
- Semantics
  - Meanings
  - Relationships
  - Sequencing

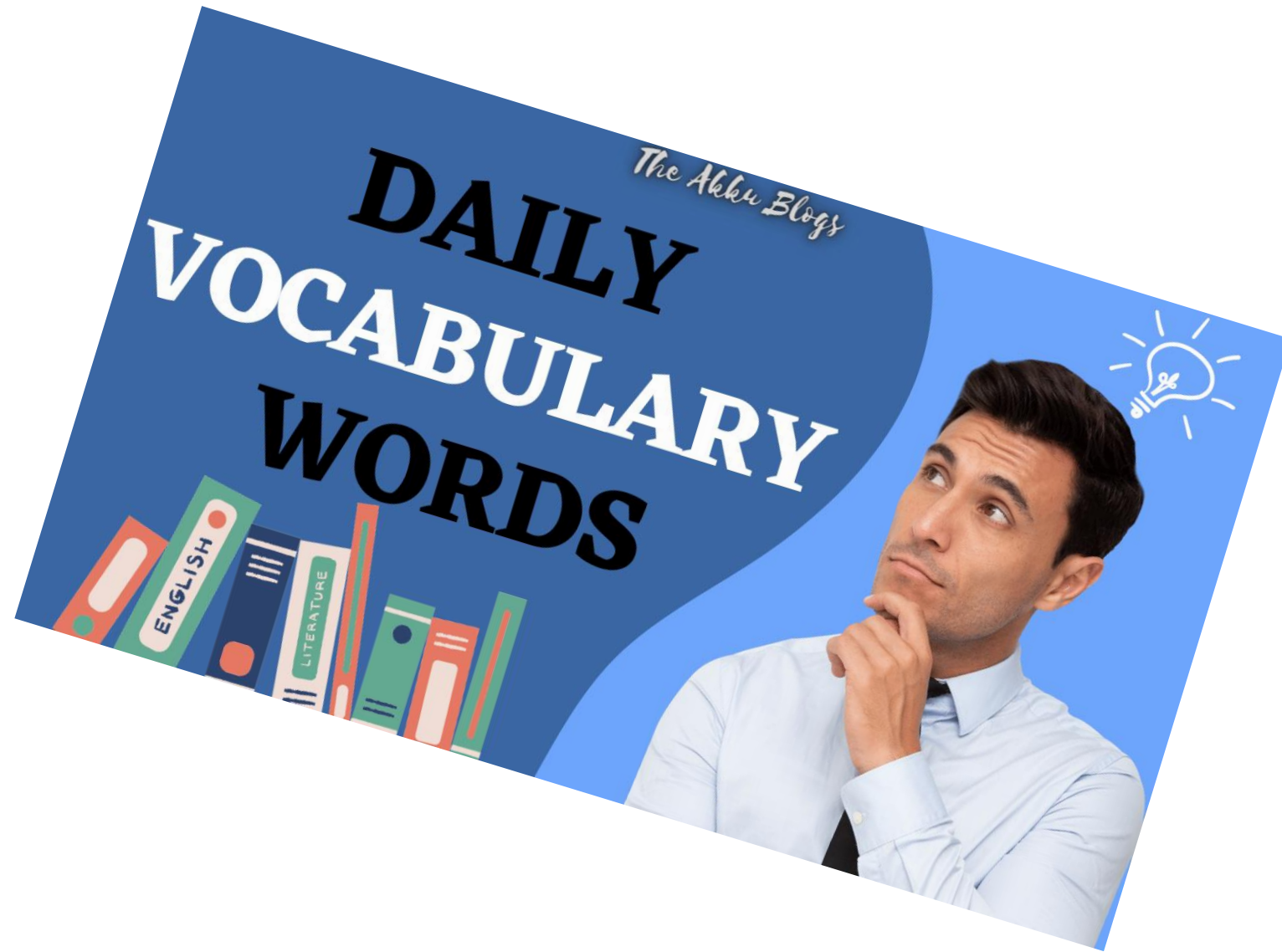


# Thinking About Vocabulary



# What is Vocabulary?

- **A set of words, typically the set in a language or the set known to an individual**
- Words we know the meaning of when we
  - Hear them
  - Say them
  - Read them
  - Write them



# Teaching Vocabulary Words

- Group into 5 – 10 new words
  - Animals / Colors / Body parts
  - Opposites (Big / small)
  - Grammar (action verbs – running)
- Avoid translation
- Use pictures / objects
- Repetition, review, and recycle



# Pictures and words

- Help illustrate the meaning of words
- Provide context of activity
- Select pictures to meet your teaching needs/goals
- Create a picture file...
  - Magazines
  - Newspapers
  - Internet



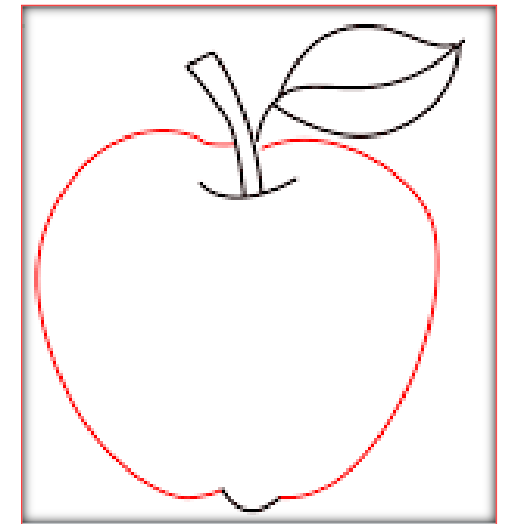
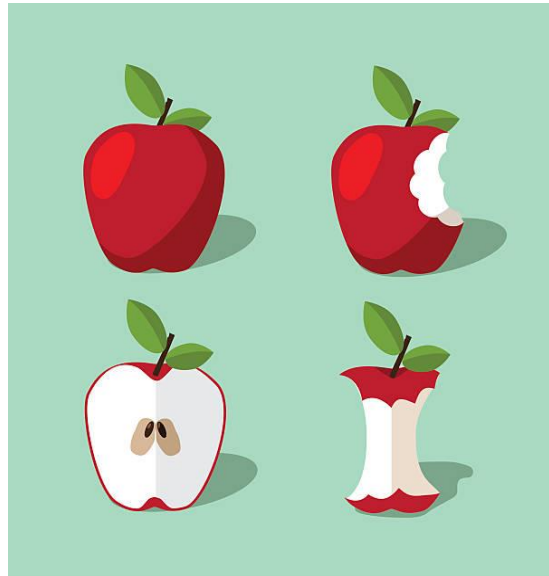


To tell



To show

- Bring the item
- Bring a prop
- Use a photo
- Cartoon drawing
- Black outline drawing



# Single objects

## Grammar

### Imperative Verbs



### **Animals:** Household Pets (8-10 words)

- Cat
- Dog
- Bunny
- Fish
- Bird
- Lizard
- Snake
- Chicky



# Variety of applications

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- What do you think the boy is feeling?
- Does he have a smile on his face?
- Do you think he is happy or sad?
- Why?



To tell



To show

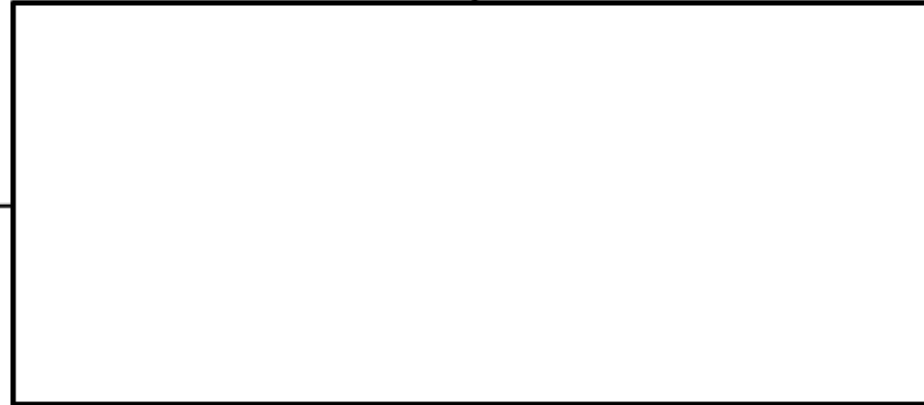
# Teaching Tips:

- Choose 1 way to say it – and stick with it
- Be consistent – get into a routine
- Use repetition
  - Need to hear and use 20 times to learn permanently
  - Recycle words in later lessons
- Show several examples

# Vocabulary Word Map

Define in your own words

Synonyms



A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for the student to write the word being studied and its associated information.

Use it meaningfully in a sentence

Draw a picture of it

# Use

- **Pragmatic Language**

- Social skills
- Matching language to situations
- Conversations
- Storytelling



## Components of Pragmatic Language



Conversational  
Skills



Non-Verbal  
Communication



Adapting  
Language



Social  
Norms

# Pragmatic Language

- The social rules and conventions that guide **HOW** we **use language** in everyday interactions
- Knowing **the words**
- Knowing **when** to use them
- Knowing how to use them **appropriately**

# Top 5 ESL Conversation Activities for Teens & Adults



Jackie Bolen @ [eslspeaking.org](https://eslspeaking.org)

# Speaking and Listening

- Introduce and explain the activity first
- Speak slowly
- Repeat back what they said
- Confirm that you understand
- Try to use a variety of words that mean the same thing



## Active and Interactive Activities (All Levels)

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- Role playing
- Picture Stories
- Conversation Prompts



## Activity

# 13

## Role Plays

(high-beginning, intermediate, advanced)

### PURPOSES

To give students an opportunity to use newly learned words and expressions in conversation in a nonthreatening environment.

To increase students' confidence in their ability to use English to meet their needs in the outside world.

### METHOD

1. Teach a basic dialogue related to a specific situation (see Activity 12).
2. Explain that you'll practice the dialogue in a setting a little more like real life. Pass out any props needed for the role play. Stand up while you do the role play with a student.
3. Take the role of the first speaker. Say the same line you practiced in the dialogue. Then beckon the student to give the next line.
4. Modify your second line of the dialogue slightly to see how the student will respond. Example from the post office dialogue:

### Waiter/waitress

Greeting: Good morning/evening/afternoon.  
 Have you got a reservation?  
 Have you booked a table?  
 Follow me please.  
 Can I help you?  
 Here is the menu.  
 I would recommend ...  
 Are you ready to order now?  
 What would you like to order?  
 Would you like anything to drink?  
 Anything else?  
 Here you are. Enjoy your meal.  
 Is everything OK? Is everything alright?



### Customer

Good evening, I have booked a table for two on the name ....  
 What can you recommend us?  
 We are not ready yet.  
 I would like to see the menu please.  
 Can I/we have ... ?/Can I order ... ?  
 We would like to order ...  
 Could we have a bill please?  
 How much is it?  
 Yes, we have got a reservation for ... people.  
 No, that's all thank you.  
 I would like to get a bill please.  
 Could we have a non-smoking table?  
 Thank you and have a nice day.



Claire

**Order**  
 Table for 2 people  
 1x Hawai pizza  
 1x Cheese pizza  
 2x Lemonade



Lucy

**Order**  
 Table for 3 people  
 3x Chicken soup  
 1x Mexican pizza  
 1x Americano pizza  
 1x Fish and chips  
 2x Beer  
 1x Apple juice



Peter

**Order**  
 Table for 4 people  
 2x Tomato soup  
 2x Vegetable Soup  
 2x Roast lamb  
 2x Garden Salad  
 2x Ham pizza  
 4x Coke



George

**Order**  
 Table for 2 people  
 1x Your pizza (with cheese, corn, ham, tuna, mushrooms)  
 1x Bacon pizza  
 2x Red wine  
 2x Chocolate Cake

# — Example: Roleplay Activity

How to deposit a check:

- Prepare
- Practice
  - Write a dialogue

Diagram of a check with labels for fields: Name and address, Date, Bank, COUNTER DEPOSIT, Cash, Check, Checks listed individually, Subtotal, Total, Account Number, Signature, and MICR line.

Country Club Bank, ACCOUNT DEPOSIT

DATE January 13, 2016

NAME JANE DOE

Jane Doe

SIGN HERE FOR CASH RECEIVED (IF REQUIRED)

ACCOUNT NUMBER 1234567890

NET DEPOSIT \$

What You'll See?

Endorsement area

Where you endorse—meaning sign—the check when you're ready to deposit or cash the check.

Security box

A security feature that contains a warning that helps discourage thieves from altering or copying the check.

Security screen

This area is reserved for financial institution use and is not an area you'll use as a consumer.

Is a Signature Required on the Back of a Check?

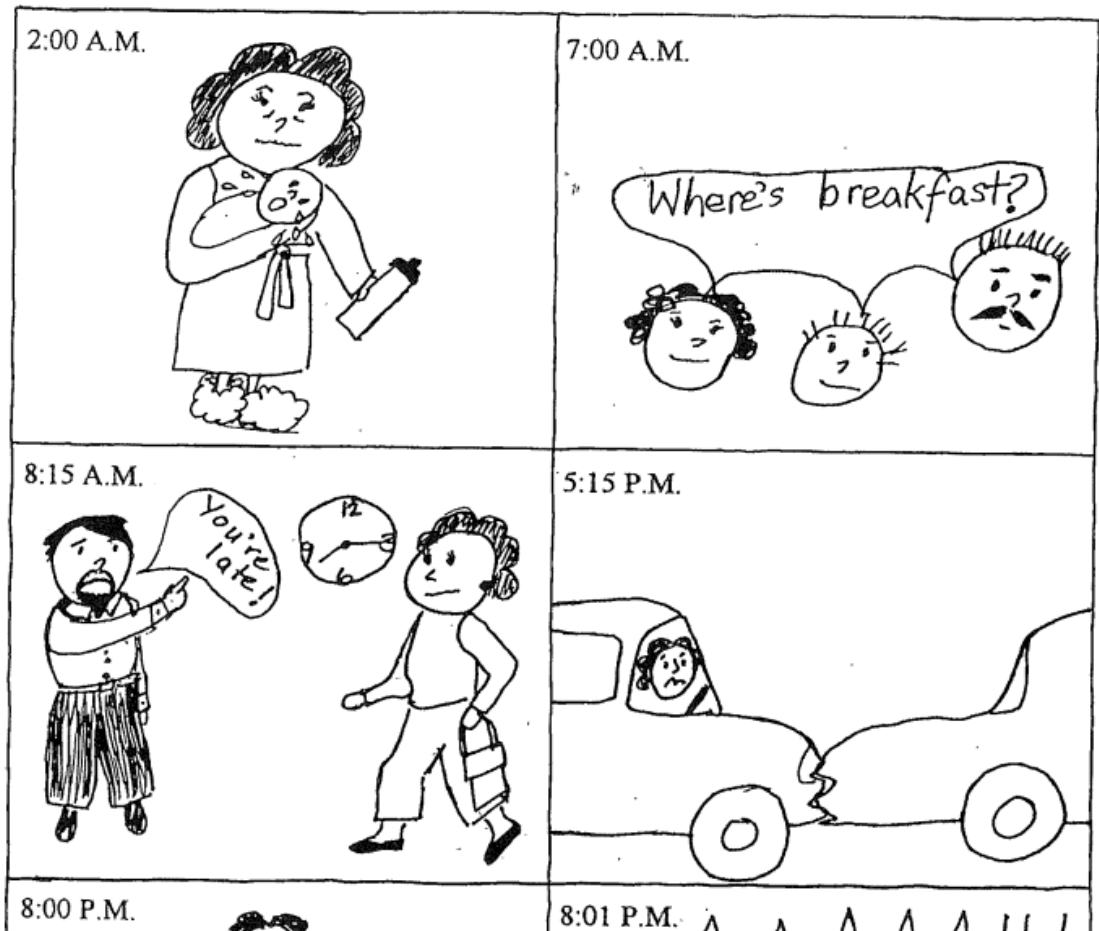
While you can get away with depositing a check without a signature, it's safest to sign it.

Numbers on the Back of a Check

Numbers in the endorsement area are often reference numbers used to track checks. They are especially helpful for businesses that

# Picture Stories

## STRESSED OUT!!!



Activity

14

## Using Picture Stories for Health Literacy (all)

### PURPOSE

To encourage students to practice health vocabulary and discuss topics related to health and well-being.

### METHOD

1. Have ready a copy of the picture on page 65, called "Stressed Out!!!"
2. Ask a student what is happening in the picture. Point to each frame to discuss it.

Looking at the pictures and writing a story. You can use the suggestion words in the box. Try to make an interesting ending. Do NOT forget to give your story a TITLE.

carry	shopping list	take	cashier	money
trolley	carton	fruit	cheerful	supermarket



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**\*\*Great to use with writing too\*\***

# Make up your own story!

# Conversation Prompts

- Bingo
- Chit – Chat Cards
- 5W + H
- What time is it? (clock / phone)
- Pictures!! --
  - Silly
  - Relevant
    - Job
    - Relationships / Family
    - Vacations
- + 1 question



# 5 W's + H

## Who

- Ask about person
- Act as subject of the sentence



- Who is that woman?
- Who are you phoning?

## Where

- Asking in or at what place or position



- Where do you live?
- Where are my boots?

## When

- Asking about time, occasion, moment



- When can I see you?
- When did you last see him?

## Why

- Asking for reason, explanation



- Why were you late?
- Why was he late?

## What

- Asking for specific thing, object



- What's the matter?
- What time is it?

## How

- Asking for way, manner, form



- How does it work?
- How do you go to school?

What happened?

Who was there?

Why did it happen?

When did it happen?

Where did it happen?

How did it happen?

Great to use with reading/writing too!

# WH-questions

## Speaking cards

<b>FOOD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is your favorite dish?</li><li>• Why do you like it?</li><li>• When do you eat it?</li><li>• How often do you cook it?</li></ul> 	<b>HOBBY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What are your hobbies?</li><li>• Why do you like them?</li><li>• When did you start them?</li></ul> 
<b>FRIENDS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Who is your best friend?</li><li>• How often do you see him/her?</li><li>• Where does he/she live?</li><li>• How does he/she help you?</li></ul> 	<b>ANIMALS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is your favorite animal?</li><li>• Why do you like it?</li><li>• Where does it live?</li><li>• What does it eat and drink?</li></ul> 
<b>BIRTHDAY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• When is your birthday?</li><li>• How do you celebrate it?</li><li>• What presents do you like?</li><li>• How many friends do you usually invite?</li></ul> 	<b>MOVIES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is your favorite movie?</li><li>• Why do you like it?</li><li>• When did you see it?</li><li>• Who are the actors there?</li></ul> 
<b>SEASON</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Which season do you like the most?</li><li>• Why do you like it?</li><li>• What do you do in this season?</li><li>• Where do you spend it?</li></ul> 	<b>SCHOOL</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is your favorite subject?</li><li>• Why do you like it?</li><li>• How often do you study it?</li></ul> 
<b>HOLIDAYS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is your favorite holiday?</li><li>• Why do you like it?</li><li>• What do you eat and drink on this day?</li><li>• Where do you spend it?</li></ul> 	<b>MUSIC</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is your favorite music?</li><li>• Why do you like it?</li><li>• When do you listen to it?</li><li>• Who is your favorite singer?</li></ul> 

ISLCollective.com

# ESL Websites

## Google it!

- Free worksheets
- Game ideas
- Key words:
  - "Picture stories for adult ESL students"
  - "Free worksheets for -----"
- Be specific!

## Some websites include:

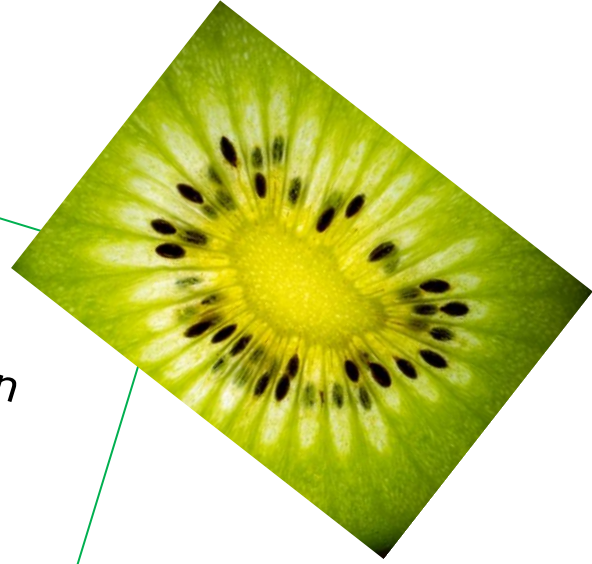
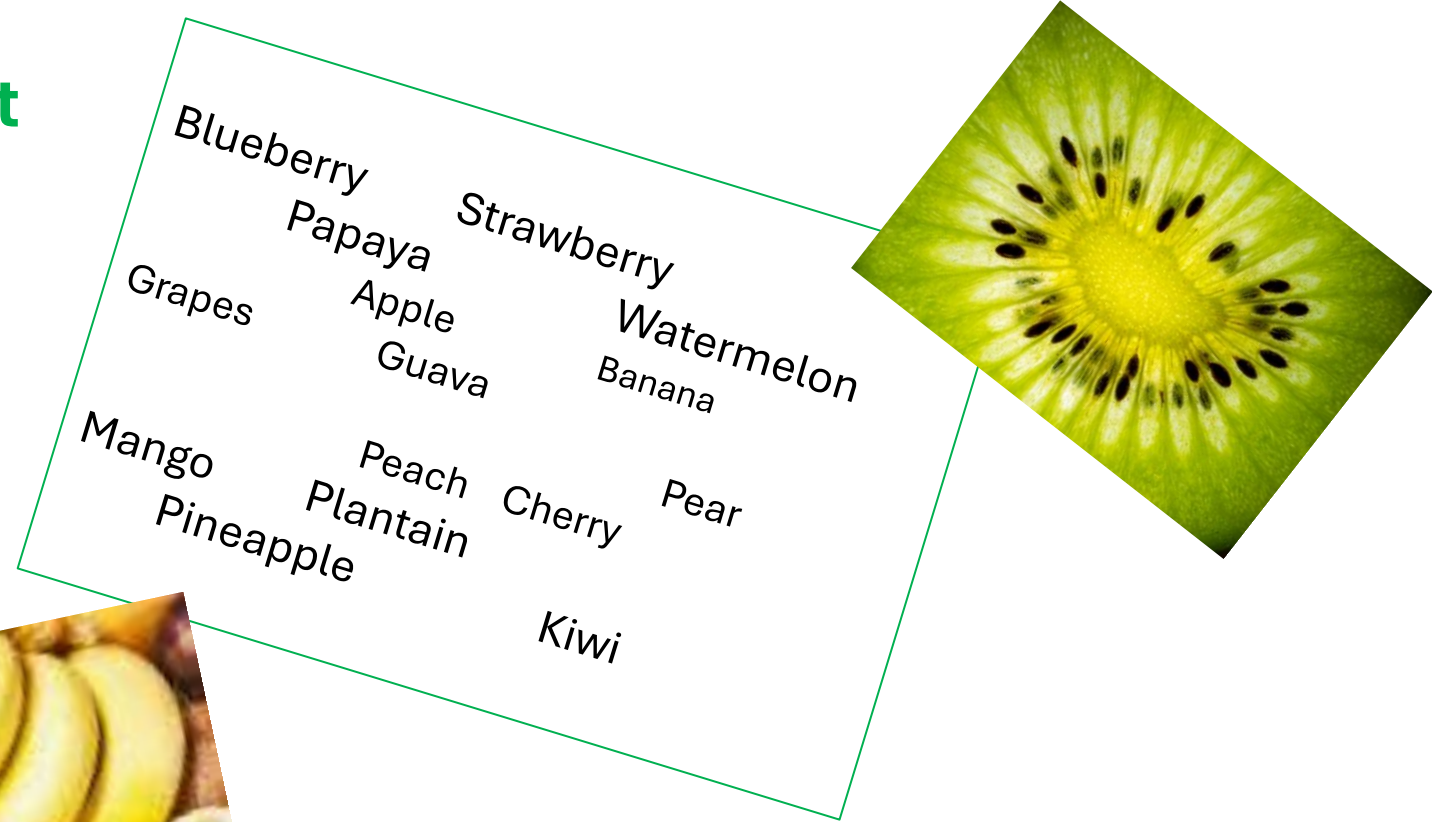
- Games4esl.com
- En.islcollective.com
- ESL Printables
- Teach-this.com

# Don't work harder than your student!

- Have them...
  - Create a
    - Picture dictionary
    - Flashcards
    - Word journal
  - Record new words, phrases, story, etc. on their phone and
    - Listen together next session
  - Treasure hunt (homework)
    - Give a flashcard with the name of "group" of vocabulary words on it
    - Their assignment is to "find" as many words in that group
    - Write them on the back of the card

# Vocabulary Word Treasure Hunt

Fruit





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**Bite – size...  
mini, tiny,  
short, lessons**

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# Student Centered

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- Observe student (not just errors)
- Feedback from your student
  - Are you going too fast / too slow?
- Do not force it!
- Slowly add "tiny" lessons
- Relevant to their life

