

Using local resources: Secondary English

English (with Hindi)

Commentary:

In this secondary school, the teacher of a large English class employs local and handmade resources to encourage his students to use the present continuous tense in English.

Teacher: Good morning to all the students.

Students: Good morning, sir.

Teacher: Please, sit down.

Students: Thank you, sir.

Commentary:

He begins by using magazine and newspaper pictures to prompt his students to practise the English present continuous. Notice how he calls on different students to speak, and sometimes uses Hindi to support their learning of English.

Student 1: An elephant is driving the car. A girl is playing.

Teacher: Next.

Student 2: Dhoni is going to pavilion.

Teacher: Going to pavilion.

Student 2: Pavilion.

Teacher: Pavilion. Yes! Please, look at that chart paper. There are many things happening in that chart.

Student 3: The boy is sleeping. The girl is drinking. The girl is writing.

Teacher: The girl is?

Student 3: Writing.

Teacher: Writing, yes.

Student 4: The girl is singing a song.

Teacher: Yes, please sit down.

Commentary:

The teacher divides the class into groups of three and gives each group a newspaper or magazine clipping. He asks each group to find English verbs in their clipping and write them down.

Student 5: Go faster.

Teacher: Have you done?

Students: Yes, sir.

Teacher: Have you identified the verb from your clip?

Students: Yes, sir.

Teacher: Yes?

Students: Yes, sir.

Teacher: You have to tell me a new verb. Tell me a new verb?

Student 4: Sir, remember.

Teacher: Remember. Next.

Student 2: Sign.

Commentary:

The teacher is asking his students to use the present continuous form of the verbs in their clipping.

Student: Singing.

Teacher: What is different? Why we use 'ing' form here? Can you tell me? Yes!

Student 4: Sir, present continuous tense.

Teacher: Present continuous...

The work is still going on, now, yeah? I am teaching you.

Students: Yes, sir.

Teacher: You are?

Student: Reading.

Teacher: And he is? She is? She is writing. When the work is still going on, we use?

Students: Present continuous.

Teacher: Present continuous. And 'ing' form of the verb...

Commentary:

The teacher has made a chart to help his students develop their knowledge.

Teacher: In present continuous tense, we need auxiliaries. 'Helping Verbs'. I am?

Students: Running.

Teacher: Running. I am running. You are?

Students: Running.

Teacher: Running. Make sentences by using this chart.

Students: Yes, sir.

Teacher: Yes, you please.

Student 6: Ram is going to market with his elder brother.

Teacher: Very good! Very good!

Student 1: Rat is dancing with her friends.

Teacher: Rat is dancing with her friend.

Commentary:

The teacher now reorganises his students and gives each pair a card with verbs on. Every student must make a sentence using one of the verbs in the present continuous. Notice how the teacher walks around the classroom to ensure that all his students are participating.

Student 7: He is looking... the birds. The wood cutter cut the tree.

Student 8: Cutting the tree.

Student 7: Cut the tree.

Student 9: Poem लिखो यहाँ पे, the double-double essay मत लिखो।

I am reading the poem.

Teacher: I am reading?

Student 9: The poem.

Teacher: I am reading the poem.

Student 10: I am writing a essay.

Teacher: 'A' essay? 'An' essay?

Student 10: An essay.

Teacher: An essay. Please sit down.

Student 11: A boy is singing a song.

Teacher: A boy?

Student 11: Is singing a song.

Teacher: Next.

Student 4: The dogs are barking in the field.

Commentary:

What local language resources do you think your students could bring into the classroom, or make by hand?