

ONLINE LESSONS: A MENU OF IDEAS

Karen Waterston and Silvija Pozenel



Introduction

We have put together this collection of short and quick ideas for you to use in your online lessons. With almost no preparation needed, these ideas can be adapted for different age groups and will help to make your lessons engaging and fun.

Appetisers

- **1–10**

The group counts from one to ten. Anyone can start by saying ‘one’. Another person says ‘two’, and another says ‘three’. There is no order. Anyone can say a number at any time. If two people say the same number at the same time, start again from ‘one’.

- **Point to**

Change the view so that all participants are visible on the screen (e.g. *gallery view* in Zoom). Teacher says, ‘Point to (name of participant).’ Everyone points to that person. Build up to saying two or three names of participants. Keep it quick and fast paced.

- **Run and find ...**

Teacher says, ‘Show me something yellow/round/blue/that smells nice/soft’, etc. Participants run and fetch the item to show the group. This can be adapted to run and find items that spell a word. For example, find things that spell ‘try’. Participants bring something beginning with ‘t’/‘r’/‘y’.

- **Stamp the word (variation of hit the board)**

On the shared whiteboard/PowerPoint slide, include the words covered during the lesson – for example, opposites. Participants use the arrow stamp tool (in Zoom this is under annotate → stamp → arrow). Teacher says the opposite, each participant ‘stamps’ with the arrow next to the word. The arrow stamp has the participant’s name on it. Alternatively, participants can put a tick or a line or any mark from the annotate function.

- **Girls/boys**

When asking for answers, you can ask groups to respond, not just individuals. For example, tell them you’re going to show some pictures of objects. Participants need to shout out the words. Teacher shows the picture and says, ‘All the girls say the word’ or ‘All the boys say the word’.

Coffee (energisers)

- **Big fish/little fish**

Teacher says, 'big fish', and everyone holds out their arms as wide as possible. Teacher says, 'little fish', everyone brings their hands together to make a small fish. Then teacher says the words and the participants do the opposite action.

- **Spider-man, Superwoman and Batman**

Teacher says 'Spider-man' and everyone stands up and shoots Spider-man webs around the room. Teacher says, 'Superwoman', and everyone stands up and puts one arm in front, one behind with their elbow bent. Teacher says, 'Batman', and everyone flaps their arms like a bat. Say them quickly. Give the students turns to call out the instructions (be careful if anyone is wearing headphones attached to the computer!).

Side dishes (checking answers)

- **Mini whiteboards**

Participants show answers on mini whiteboards – this can be a piece of paper in a plastic bag or plastic wallet or covered in clear sticky tape. Use a marker pen or felt pen to write. Rub it off with tissue.

- **Pass the teacher**

Teacher sends answers in private chat to one participant – they provide the answers, others self-check.

- **Gestures**

Use this for true/false or numbered questions. Teacher says, 'Question 1, show me'. Participants show with their hands. Thumbs up/down for yes/no. Fingers for which answer (1/2/3, etc.).

Dessert (review)

- **Graffiti wall**

Everyone writes a favourite word of the lesson on the shared whiteboard. Everyone draws a symbol to summarise the lesson. Everyone draws a smiley face with big smile/straight smile/sad smile to show how confident they are with using what they have learned.

- **Word collage**

Start with the topic of the lesson written on the shared whiteboard. Participants make a word collage (write another word perpendicular to the main word with one of the letters in it).