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Lesson Plan for ‘Hello, Hello’ Icebreaker Activity

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Introduction

First day introductions can be nerve wracking for young learners, especially for introverted students who are just meeting their classmates for the first time. Finding fun and engaging activities to begin the semester can be a challenge for teachers. This icebreaker is an activity based on the song “Hello Hello How Are You” by the Kiboomers (The Kiboomers Kids Music Channel, 2015).

Music in Language Learning

Music is an effective way to teach English. It has been suggested that musical and language abilities may share similar brain mechanisms (Milovanov et al., 2008). Furthermore, others have stated it enhances and motivates language learning (Israel, 2013) and developing musical ability may also benefit further language acquisition (Chobert & Besson, 2013). The song “Hello Hello How Are You” has the potential to benefit student language learning.

Teaching Points

The main goal of the activity is to encourage students to introduce and get to know themselves and to get to know each other. This activity sets the tone of what is in store for the rest of the semester and makes students feel welcomed to the class. As a bonus, it also serves as a great energy booster tool for my early morning or less motivated classes.

Lesson Plan

Title of Video	Hello Hello How Are You by the Kiboomers
Student Age	6-11 years old (Primary school level)
Class Size	15-20
CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages - Fluency Aspect)	A2- Can make him/herself understood in very short utterances, even though pauses, false starts and reformulation are very evident. (Council of Europe, 2022)
Skills to be emphasized	Listening and speaking
Language	Grammar: - I am, I am not (verb + contraction) - I am not so good today (negative) - I hope you will feel better soon Verbal Communication: - Knock - Greet - Point - Open Adjectives: - Happy - Angry - Sad - Tired - Excited

Functional	Greetings and Introduction
Objective	<p>During/After completing this activity, students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gain the confidence to approach others - Introduce themselves in English. - Express how they feel - Use appropriate gestures
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assignment worksheets - Lyrics (See Appendix) - Video See reference list for link: The Kiboomers Kids Music Channel (2015)
Pre-Activity Warm-up	
<p><i>Get students' attention</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On the board, write in large letters and separate into two columns "teacher's questions" and "students' answers". These columns will be filled up during class. - Ask the students if they like to sing and if so what songs do they know? Where can they listen to songs? - Add vocabulary words such as lyrics, singer, radio, music, television. - Ask the students how they feel now. Their answers will tie in to the activity later. 	
Main Activity	
<p><i>Play the video</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Settle down the class and play the video when everyone is ready. - On a piece of paper, ask the students to write down the words or expressions they hear from the video. - Explain and breakdown the scene, adjust the speed and rewind difficult to understand parts if necessary. <p><i>Comprehension check</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Choose several lines from the song and write them on the board. - Repeat by reciting or singing 10-20 seconds selected lines with the class. - Ask the students what were the characters doing in the video? - What did you think about the song? Do you like it? How would you describe the song? 	

- When do we use the exclamation punctuation symbol found in the title of the song?
- Write the relevant vocabulary on the board and practice spelling and pronunciation.

Social skills

- Ask students:

What do people usually do when meeting someone for the first time?

Why are these actions/words important?

When people see someone they know, how do they attract their attention?

What are ways to greet someone? (Hi, hello, good morning, gestures and body language, etc.)

Practice greeting

- Break the students into pairs. The two roles are: greeter and receiver.
- Set the scene by choosing a student and modeling the activity. In front of class, walk towards the student and act surprised. Start reading the lines from the video. The students can pick up what needs to be said but if not, write it on the board or print out the lyrics. (see Appendix)
- Instruct and emphasize to students that one student does the introducing while the other listens and then they switch roles. When everyone understands, the activity can start.
- Teacher(s) walk around the classroom to monitor.
- You can create a competition to see who greets the most number of classmates.
- For higher level students ask them to add longer sentences to the lyrics or create a variation with what they did over the weekend etc.

Hello, my name is (_____)

And last week I (_____)

Post-Activity Wrap Up

Review

- Play the video again.
- Ask students what they thought about the activity.
- Ask the students to repeat the grammar and vocabulary points of the video.
- For homework, ask the students to come up with answers to “how do you feel?” or “how are you?” to serve as a review activity for next week’s lesson.

Conclusion

An active and music-based icebreaker activity is explained in this article. Music is powerful in teaching language for a number of reasons including its benefits to language

learning and motivation (Israel, 2013). The teaching point highlighted in this activity is familiarizing yourself with your classmates through practicing a basic greeting dialogue. The activity is aimed at students who are at CEFR A2 level, and comprises simple grammar and verbs that can be pre-taught. This activity can teach students about language and social etiquette. Having used this activity in the classroom and as someone who was reticent in his younger years, this activity holds a special place. I encourage others to explore and use music as a way to educate language learners.

Appendix A

Lyrics for Hello Song

Hello	hello, hello
Hello	how are you
How are you?	how are you today?
Hello, hello	I am hungry.
How are you?	I am tired.
Hello, hello	I am hungry.
How are you?	I'm tired.
How are you today?	I am hungry.
I am fine	I am tired.
I am fine	I'm not so good today.
I am great	oh... I hope you will feel better soon.
I am fine	hello
I'm just great!	hello
I am fine	how are you?
I am great	hello
I'm very well today	hello
Great!	how are you
Hello, hello	hello
how are you?	hello
Hello, hello	how are you?
how are you?	I'm very well today!

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