

Language Activities

Ruchi Nigam & Seema Dutta

ACTIVITY 1

Level: *Middle School Level (Classes 5 to 8)*

Topic: Parts of Speech

Aim: Identifying and Understanding Parts of Speech

Props:

- **Parts of Speech Set:** Strips of paper with different parts of speech written on them
- **Word Set:** Strips of paper with words corresponding to the eight parts of speech

Number of strips in each set depends upon the size of the class.

Sample Words: Words such as *Temple, Road, Flower, Girl, Bunch*, etc. for Nouns and, similarly, words for other parts of speech.

Instructions

- Each participant/student picks up a paper strip.
- On the signal from the facilitator, participants with paper strips from the Parts of Speech Set move around the classroom and find participants holding paper strips from the Word Set belonging to the corresponding part of speech.
- After finding their corresponding groups, they sit with their group members and each group attempts to unpack the part of speech they are a part of and construct meaningful sentences with the available words.

Expected Outcome

This activity will help the students to identify different parts of speech

—one of the first steps to learning grammar. The students will be able to differentiate between parts of speech. They will also learn to construct sentences using different parts of speech. The students will develop an understanding of an important aspect of grammar.

ACTIVITY 2

Level: *High School Level (Classes 8 to 10)*

Topic: Tense Forms

Aim: To understand the different kinds of tenses and their appropriate usage

Props

- **Make-believe Currency** – strips of papers with an amount printed on it.
- **A bell** to indicate that the sentence has been auctioned.
- **A sheet of paper** with around 30 well-formed and ill-formed sentences jumbled together. The ill-formed sentences should contain errors of the tense form.

Instructions

- Divide the class into groups, number of groups depending upon the class strength
- Explain to the groups that an auction of sentences is to be conducted, and each group has to buy as many correct sentences as possible.
- Allocate a sum of money to each group - Rs. 50 of the Make-believe Currency per sentence.
- Each sentence will be sold to the highest bidder.
- Once all the sentences are auctioned, the facilitator will give out the correct sentences and incorrect sentences.
- Each group that has an incorrect sentence will lose Rs. 50 of the Make-believe Currency per incorrect sentence.
- The group that retains the highest amount of money is the winner.

Note: It would be advisable to discuss the reasons for a sentence being incorrect. The correct sentence can then be discussed so that the students become aware of the common errors they commit in their usage of tense

forms. This would help students to learn the appropriate usage of a particular tense form which is the aim of the activity.

Expected Outcome: The activity will help the students to identify and understand the correct usage of tense forms in sentences. The discussion of the common errors with respect to tenses in sentences will help students minimise errors in constructing sentences. The students will learn tenses in a collaborative, playful and anxiety-free manner.

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