

Language Activities

Using Movie Trailers to Promote Language Learning

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- **Skill Focus** : Speaking and listening
- **Level** : Intermediate / Advanced level
- **Estimated time** : 60-90 minutes
- **Group size** : 10-12 learners per group

Objectives

1. To develop learners' speaking and listening competency by engaging them innovatively through movie trailers and preview clips (usually between 02:30-05:00 mins length).
2. To creatively incorporate the use of ICT in the EFL/ESL class.

Materials

Individual screens (phones/iPads) / Big screen (projectors, LCD screen etc.) and any movie trailer, preferably of a recently released movie.

Preparation

1. Elicit responses from learners about their movie preferences in terms of themes, genres etc. (for e.g. adventure, comedy, period movie).
2. Group students according to their similarity of interest in movies and provide them with a trailer or encourage them to select the trailer of a movie collectively after discussion.

Methodology

1. Ask learners to work in their respective groups, watch the chosen trailer on their phones and take notes of the main episodes and events that appear in the trailer.
2. As trailers aim at fostering suspense through their disorderly arrangement, encourage learners to be creative and visualize a well-structured story of the movie on the basis of what they have watched.

3. Groups may volunteer to show their chosen trailer to the class on the big screen and subsequently share their version of the story (around 04:00 to 05:00 mins).

Follow-On Activities

This activity may pave the way for other interesting (in/beyond the class) activities. The following suggestions can be explored:

1. Encouraging learners to write a short movie script based on the trailer they have watched. The teacher may like to provide the rubrics for script writing to students.
2. Motivating learners to prepare a trailer of the movie they like best, a preparation which reflects their personal vision of it.

Evaluation of the Activity

The activity promotes creativity, collaborative learning while simultaneously developing learners' speaking and listening skills using authentic audio-visual materials in an engaging manner.

Note to the Teacher

The activity can be adapted keeping in mind the proficiency level of the learners. Thus, the teacher may like to select a trailer with simple content and language as well as short length for beginning level of intermediate learners.

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