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## **English Hub: A Wondrous Tool for Language Teachers and Learners**

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**Abstract:** In the Era of globalization, English language most often gives a successful platform for business, politics, organizations, media and society. English is learned around the world in particular of professional students to face the huge competition in the field. It is crystal clear that language teacher needs to be creative and innovative to teach English as a Secondary Language with new strategies. “English Hub” is an effective centre of an activity to widen the language skills particularly in the teaching – learning process. It is an innovative and pre requisite tool to teach thought provokingly even for the rural students like in India. This paper is mainly focused on how to make students comfortable to learn English effectively and enhance the communicative ability with which students can easily polish their inner skills of knowledge. The paper proposes that how a teacher can develop activities for English Hub in an innovative and creative way which makes the learner easy to involve and participate. Obviously, it helps not only for the rural or mother tongue influenced students but also English medium students to improve their effectiveness in the LSRW Skills. Finally, this paper proposes innovative activities for grammar practice and presentations.

**Key words:** Global language, Facilitator, Motivator, Active learner, Activities, LSRW.

### **1. Introduction**



“It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.” (Einstein Brainy Quote) In this statement great scientist Albert Einstein was opined magnificently on “Teacher”, whose role is to create joy and interest among the students in the process of knowledge acquisition. In the Era of globalization, English language most often gives a successful platform for business, politics, organizations, media and society. English is learnt around the world in particular of professional students to face the huge competition in their field. “Teaching English as a second Language to non-native students, coming from different strata of society in mixed ability large classes is in totality a herculean task.” (Somwasnshi 2011) It is crystal clear that language teacher is needed to be challenging and innovative to teach English as a Secondary Language with new strategies. Being a facilitator, the teacher can create an amicable environment with which he/she can grab the attention of the students easily. In the present scenario, Language Teacher plays a prominent role in molding the student’s personality with Communication and Soft skills.

The main motive to implement language hub in the activity based teaching is to enhance the communicative ability with which the candidate will be polished inner skills of knowledge. It is essential to introduce the language hub in particular of graduate level of professional students to acquire LSRW Skills, Presentation skills, Conversational Skills, Team Building Skills and Interview skills and other because it is difficult to imagine success in the global competitive world without language competency. Students with mother tongue influenced and rural background learners are being stressed and unable to present their ideas or thoughts at the Interview Panel. So, acquisition of language is part and parcel for the learner to face the global platform of competition in the multinational companies. Obviously, activity at English Hub is a unique learning environment and it makes the learner active and confident to participate in the interactive sessions with their open relaxed mind. Thought provoking concepts on vocabulary topics like phrasal verbs, proverbs, antonyms, synonyms, inflections of suffixes and prefixes, etc will be added color to task based teaching-learning.



Besides, group discussions and personal interviews, Just-a-minute (JAM) session, which is a form of presentation lasting only for a minute or so, has emerged as an important recruitment tool in today's professional world. (Kumar and Lata 283)

### **1. 1. Teacher: Facilitator**

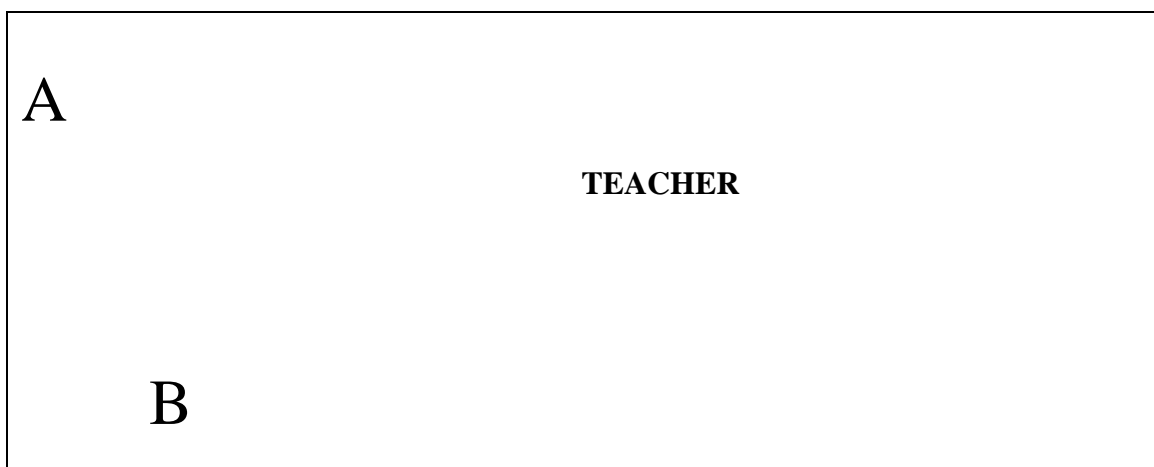
It is need of the hour to adopt new strategies for language teacher to compete the world of opportunities. Though the students are motivated to involve but internal obstacles like fear, nervousness, lack of confidence, unawareness have been made great barriers for the most of them. "Nervousness is a common problem that prevents many people from making presentations and many presenters from doing a good job." (Monippally 124) To conquer the fear of nervousness, the teacher is needed to act as a facilitator for generating ideas in a group or in the individual. The teacher plays a crucial role to create an amicable environment and make the student comfortable to listen, speak, read and write in the activity based classroom. If the teacher can frame with the following assumptions on group activities like G.D, Debate, Just A Minute Session, Ice Breakers, Reading Exercises, Retelling Stories, Vocabulary Puzzles, PPT presentations on august personalities, Audio & Video Collections and Visual - Aids will be useful for both the teacher and the learner.

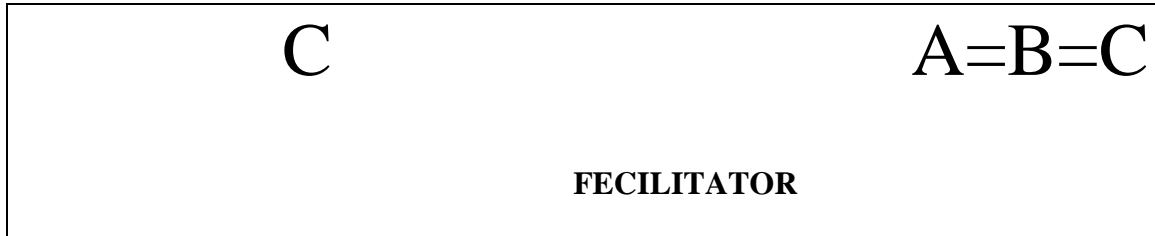
The success of the activity lies in teacher's clarity and well designed activities. The teacher has to divide the class into groups and motivate the students to speak one by one on any topic. The teacher is usually found difficulty at this juncture because some are interested and enthusiastic but some are not ready to participate. With the firm grounding of preparation and optimistic approach, the teacher focuses on bringing the student into a comfortable zone because learning equally from success and mistakes is a skill that transfers the person into personal and professional. To solve this problem, facilitator is suggested to make the class into groups of five. Identify the students with their standards and train them according to their levels. No student is found poor for a conscientious teacher.



For example each group must consist of 3 level of students of **A** (good at language), **B** (average at language) and **C** (below average at language). It is essential to make a group with **A**, **B**, and **C** and train them to involve or participate regularly in the activities like reading short stories, current news topics, and comprehension passages at English Hub. Sometimes “A” group students are good at LSRW Skills but they may not be interested to present in front of others or get rid of stage. Whereas below average students may not come forward to present their inner ideas due to inner and external barriers. Average students are industrious and ready to grab the skills from “A” and “C” groups. Obviously, students can exchange the knowledge from one another in the interactive sessions and teacher acts like a bridge among the groups with rational feedback and suggestions. By inculcating activity based strategies at regular practice, the expected outcome is to be appreciable for team spirit.

- A** -- Good at LSRW but not enthusiastic.
- B** -- Average at LSRW but industrious.
- C** -- Below average at LSRW but interested.





## 1.2 Teacher: Motivator

Teacher is not only meant for teaching but also one of the prominent motivators in molding the student's personality with an extrinsic motivation. A teacher usually attracts the attention of the students by creating friendly environment to inculcate the confidence among the students to participate in the active learning process. As a mentor, the teacher provides innovative teaching methods like tasks or activities, which allow students to learn actively. Using visual aids or pictorial descriptions grab the attention of the learner to accomplish the task and enhance the understanding levels. Positive and amicable environment at English Hub will help the learner to involve actively in the activities. An enthusiastic teacher strives for the excellence in teaching process with new strategies and creates comfortable zone for learners.

## 2. Activities At English Hub: A Unique Learning Environment

### 2.1 Activity on Pronouns: I-III Person Narration

Learning Parts of Speech is so fundamental part in basics of grammar but it is pitiable to know that even graduate level of students may not be confident at identification of parts of speech and Subject, Verb agreement in written round of Campus Placements and Competitive Exams. Proper knowledge on Grammar and Sentence Formation will pave the path of success in writing and speaking skills. The following exercise of activity based teaching on Pronouns will help the average and below average learners in a better way.



Person	Singular	Plural
I Person	I	We
II Person	You	You
III Person	<b><u>He , She, It</u></b>	They

have, do

**has, does**

- Clear explanation must be given to the students on Pronouns and its usage.
- Make students into groups of five.
- The five members of each group have to present their self introduction in the first round. ( I Person Narration/ Self introduction/ Speaking skills)
- Attentive listening plays an important role for the rest of students.(Listening Skills)
- Each student must go for second round with self introduction and about other student's description spontaneously. ( I and III Person Narration)
- Finally, all five members together make a conversation as a role-play.(Team Building Skills)
- Internal and external motivation is possible at an amicable environment.
- Encourage the student to speak first and not to focus on the correction at the spot. Regular practice will help the learner to be competent at Speaking Skills.
- A suggestible Feedback and Summative assessment will be given at the end by the teacher as well as students but it must not discourage the person, otherwise it may disturb the flow of thought.



- Activities like self introduction, friend's description and role play are covered. Moreover, student will be confident and benefitted.

## **2.2 Activity: Reading and Retelling the Story**

Reading skills play pivotal role in acquisition of LSRW skills but majority of the students are being neglected in the course of study. "Reading is one of the most important academic tasks faced by students; it is equally important in the commercial working world". (Raman 259) It is suggestible to add "Magazine Wing" for English Hub by enrolling memberships in Language Oriented Monthly Magazines, Research Journals, and English News Papers. Interpretation among group members will enrich the understanding levels because reading the same book or passage perceptions may vary from one person to other person. It is fact that great personalities like Mahatma Gandhi and A.P.J Kalam had been motivated by great writings in their life-time.

In "Learning How to fly" Abdul Kalam opines that book wipes away the tears:

Whenever there is a problem, the book wipes away the tears based on the experience of great minds. When happiness overwhelms, the book again softly touches the mind and brings about a balanced thinking. (112)

In order to enhance the maximum benefits of reading, SQ3R technique enable the reader to get an idea about the structure and organization of the text or passage. SQ3R is a reading technique, (survey, question, read, recite, review) which gives how to proceed and understand the text in an easy way. Besides, the teacher has to educate the types of reading skills: Scanning, Skimming, Intensive and Extensive in an elaborate way.

### **2.2 .1 SQ3R –Technique**

While reading the story of a book or any passage, it is needed to follow some tips for an easy understanding.





Survey:

- Reading the title, content, headings and subheading will give primary knowledge on the book.
- Reading the Chapter summaries and illustration enhance the knowledge.
- Reading the introduction and Conclusion may give an idea on the book.

Question:

- Self-questioning enable the reader to get a clear picture on the book.
- Questioning enhances levels of grasping on the gist.

Read and Recite/ Recall

- Focusing on main points
- Making notes
- Recalling the main and supporting points
- Rewrite the story with the exploration of new ideas

Review:

- Covering the main points and recheck the content
- Discussing the main points with the peer
- Reviewing the text and its salient points.

### 2.2.2 Types of Reading Skills

In addition to that Inspirational books of biographies, autobiographies, dramatic and historical novels are added more elegance to the English Hub because books are great motivators for the readers in sharpening the attitude and personality.

The author says that ‘story telling’ is an amazing activity:



Story telling is one of the amazing and interesting activities a classroom can have. It will not only improve the student's language skills but also his/her creativity. This activity will also improve the student's presence of mind as they have to carry the story over from the previous person. (Jose 2017)

- It is a team work exercise.
- Collection of story must be inspirational.
- While reading two or three rounds of story, difficult words are found.
- Intensive exercise has to be done with Dictionary and Rewrite (Writing Skills).
- Retell the story with the exploration of new ideas.
- Exchange of ideas will help the students to be elevated.

### **3. Worksheets On Famous Quotes : Enriching Thinking and Technical Presentation Skills**

In this round, the teacher's role plays an important in the preparation of work sheets on inspirational quotes. Motivate the students to collect quotes on success and failure because life is mixture of both with which they will develop thinking skills like Positive Thinking Skills and Problem solving skills etc. Besides, the following task will enhance writing as well as Presentation Skills.

- Prepare worksheet papers on the best famous quotes.
- Give a worksheet paper to an individual or a group.
- Ask the learners to write a paragraph on the given quote.
- Ask the learners to justify the quote in a given time.



## 1. Activity: Preparation of Worksheet

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Bravery is believing in yourself, and that is something no one can teach you.**

Write about what you think this famous quote means.  
Can you think of an example of how you can or already do apply this in your own life?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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(Images, Worksheets on Quotes)

## 2. Activity: Explication with Words

Ask the students to identify the positive and negative words from the written paragraph of worksheet and facilitate the learners to prepare a table.



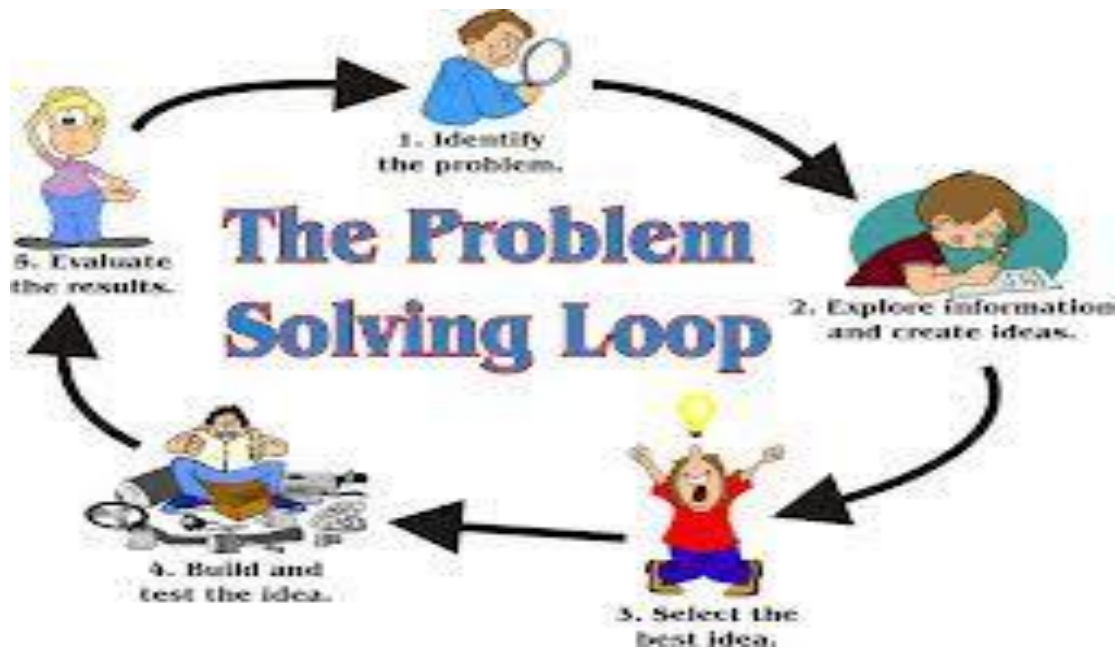
Cheerful	goal	Gloomy					
Confident	talent	Belief	joy	disbelief	challenge	angry	aim
				dedication			
Diffident	irritation	strong desire	optimistic				
Delight		Depression	Industrious	happy	indolent	jealousy	
Experience		Adaptability	Disappoint	Flexible			
Please	Blame	Pessimistic	Responsibility	relax			
Excite	smile	overconfident	Frustration	involvement			
Active		Dull					

Positive words	Negative Words
Belief, Industrious	Indolent, blame
Adaptability, Responsibility, Flexible	Angry, dull
Delight, Cheerful, joy, smile, happy	Disbelief
Challenge, aim strong desire, goal	Gloomy, jealousy, irritation
Confident, Please, relax	Overconfident, Diffident
Involvement, dedication	Depression
Experience, talent, optimistic	Frustration, pessimistic

The teacher is needed to focus on the following words for discussion; it brings knowledge on Soft Skills.

1. Optimistic - Positive Thinking Skills
2. Flexible - Adaptability
3. Confident, Please - Communication Skills
4. Responsibility, involvement - Team Building Skills
5. Relax, Cheerful, Challenge - Body Language  
(Open Relaxed, Power Body Language) etc

### 3. Problem Solving Skills: No Problems - No Skills



“Problem-solving skills are not impossible, but they do require persistence”.

(Problem Solving Skills Paper Masters)

The teacher has to mobilize the students from pessimistic approach to optimistic approach with the above list of words. If any problem comes usually people find fault with others and they will be disappointed easily, where all doors would be closed and not allow the person to identify the problem. Thinking skills play pivotal role in achieving one’s success because everyone must learn to be flexible at all the situations with optimistic approaches like self-belief, confidence, cheerful, positive attitude, strong determination, amicable communication with others etc. Sometimes it is a well known fact that hasty mind leads to wrong decisions and implies the negative attitude in the personal and the professional life. If a person allows any problem with strong mind, he would develop skills like Inter and Intra Communication skills, Positive Thinking Skills, Problem Solving Skills, Team Building Skills (Leadership



and Adaptability Skills) and Time Management etc., which are part and parcel of Soft Skills. Writing and thinking abilities will be covered with this worksheet activity. Identification of the problem, search for solutions and facing the problem with confidence are best remedies for any problem which is elaborated in the next P.P.T activity.

#### **4. Power Point Presentation on Quotes:**

In addition to this, the teacher has to enhance the knowledge on Technical Presentation with the same quotes because PPT presentation is eye-catching and impressive one. Of course, it is need of the era to use technology as a medium of effective communication in world wide. The author states that implementation of advanced technology in teaching develops the enthusiasm among the language learners:

The implementation of technology in the field of education simplified the procedures of teaching to such massive strengths by providing alternative opportunities to the learners. With the help of these technologies, self-taught techniques have been developed. The benefits that the technologies offer are witnessed in the enthusiasm that the learners are showing to pursue the language skills with ease. (Kamini 2017)

The facilitator has to bring awareness on Individual Presentations, Group Presentations and Technical Presentations in particular. The success of Power Point Presentation lies in proper planning, preparation, structuring, delivery, use of language and time, voice, rehearsals with team. A good presenter maintains confident eye-contact with open relaxed body language and grabs the attention of audience with clarity of tone. This activity is focused to inculcate cognitive thinking levels by the inspirational personalities.

##### **2.4.1 Preparation paves the way to success:**

- Initiation and Coordination play an important role here to work together.



- Leader will be emerged, who will co-ordinate one another with his/her communicative ability and selects the best quotes out of it; team members inculcate the team spirit.
- Each team is needed to share their knowledge and organize the concept with collaborative mind.
- Students must discuss the topic and divided the content into three: Beginning, Middle and Conclusion.
- Dress code and eye-contact will enhance the impression on the team and moreover the practiced content will pave the success for the presentation.
- One of the important points of preparation relates to the planning of Power Point slides that the speaker intends his or her audience to view.
- Team ought to reach the place much before the audience and arrange the technical equipment in advance which will avoid the external barriers in the presentation.
- Slides preparation must be captive and innovative to the audience so, it is essential to minimize the number of slides to the time and use bullet form.
- A good presenter needed to maintain eye contact and not to show his or her back to audience which represents lack of preparation.
- It is advised to close the presentation within a time and leave the place with confidence.
- Problem Solving Skills model is illustrated with the above mentioned Positive list of words.

#### **4.2 Preparation of Slides on Problem Solving Skills**

By doing one activity on quotes with innovative steps, the teaching and learning process will be active and creative in the English Language Hub.



### 3. Conclusion

It is concluded that the above mentioned interactive sessions like Group Discussions, Ice Breakers, Role-plays, Power Point Presentations etc., allow the students to learn from one another with friendly environment. English is become global and universal language, so it is helpful for all communications. To accomplish the task based teaching, the teacher turn to be facilitator and must be dynamic with the advanced technologies like using Internet sources and computer assisted methods of illustration in the language sessions. It is great opportunity for the teacher to give formative assessment for the learners which will be useful for the students to become error free in LSRW. While observing the others, sizeable development is seen among the students which will inculcate positive attitude and formal etiquette with their own perception. Self-Assessment, Summative Assessment and Feed Back Process are suggestible to make diffident personality. Thus, students are given an opportunity to plan, organize and direct their own learning at the English Hub and are more productive. Students' owner ship and determination are reflected in the process by giving free time and space to think.

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