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UNEX Cultivating Oral Expression



Title: One word actor

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Title: One word actor

Keywords: #speaking, #oral expression, #gestures, #body language, #role play

Duration: 45 min.

Description:

Oral expression is not only speaking. It consists of a few elements that should be trained to make our speaking more effective and catching attention. This exercise will help students understand how important is their body language, facial expressions, gestures, the way they speak, etc. The very important issue in speaking is the voice modulation – this exercise develops this skill. Students will also have the possibility to train these abilities in practice. Also other skills will be developed, like cooperation and creativity.

Objectives:

1. Building awareness of a body language.
2. Overcoming barriers to public speaking.
3. Practicing the voice modulation.

Activity(ies) (Stages):

1. **Warm-up:** A teacher asks students to say one word (e.g. house, friend, literature, elephant) in different ways according to different emotions. E.g “say this word with happiness, then with anger, then with surprise”. Students should modulate their voice.
2. The teacher divides students into pairs. Each pair gets a card with the description of the story they are to play. On the card there is also one word written with capital letters. The task is: students should play the whole story without saying any words but this one which is written

with capital letters. The story should be acted as a pantomime – with body language, facial expressions, gestures – and with saying one word in some moments in the appropriate tone. E.g. there is a story about the discussion between a mother and a son. The word with capital letter is “MOTHER”. Students while playing can use this word any time they want with appropriate voice modulation.

3. Other students in a class try to guess what is the story about.
4. At the end the actors say what was the most difficult thing to do. Other students give their advices what could be improved and what was very good.

Tips for trainers

- A teacher should prepare thematically diverse stories.
- A warm-up is a very important element in this exercise.

List of resources, materials etc.

- Cards with the description of the stories and with one word written with the capital letters (one card for each pair of students).

Evaluation/Feedback

A teacher answers a few questions:

- Was the exercise useful?
- What was the best in this exercise?
- What students think about the exercise?