

Suggested Readings

700 Classroom Activities: Instant lessons for busy teachers

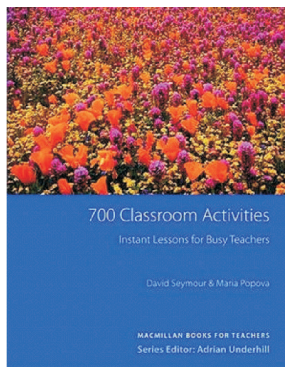
By David Seymour
& Maria Popova

Macmillan Books for
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As the title suggests, this book consists of 700 activities for busy EFL and ESOL elementary and upper-intermediate teachers. It is an important tool for teachers who wish to make teaching English fun and engaging. The activities suggested in the book are intended to provide on-the-spot practice as part of the lesson plan, as supplementary material or when a change of focus is needed. Most of the activities do not require any preparation.

The book has been divided into four sections: conversation, function, grammar and vocabulary. There can be more than one activity in each section. Within the sections, the activities are organized alphabetically. The topics have been listed in the index at the back of the book. The timing of the activities can be decided by the teacher based on the size of the class and the aptitude and enthusiasm of the students. Some of the activities are in the form of projects that can be done by the students outside the classroom and may require research on the internet. In most cases, teachers are encouraged to write the title of the activity on the board in order to steer the conversation

towards the activity. The level of difficulty of the activity is marked next to the activity heading. Seymour and Popova suggest that grading be more restricted for grammar; for activities related to conversation topics, grading can be more class and level specific. It is interesting to note that topics that maybe sensitive or embarrassing for children have a danger sign next to them so that teachers can take the decision about using the activity with caution.

The activities are divided into four main categories:

- The teacher prompts students with questions, key words or phrases
- Cues are written on the board
- Activities are used by means of short dictations or through the allocation of roles
- An individual student prepares for an activity outside of the classroom and presents it in class.

Most activities have different parts to them that need to be done in pairs, groups or as an open class activity. These activities engage the students in different kinds of skills. Seymour and Popova suggest that team games are an integral part of many activities; such games encourage friendly competitiveness and increase the emotional involvement of the student in the class.

This book is an important tool for teachers looking to go beyond the planned course material in a bid to get their students involved in learning. The activities are innovative and engaging and seem to enhance learning English. Teachers can modify some of these activities as required to teach other languages as well.