

Effective engaging lessons and ideas for short activities

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What makes
an effective
engaging lesson ?

- **Clear objectives**
- **Interesting and varied activities appropriate to the abilities of the students**
- **Activities that engage the students in the learning process**
- **Strategies to check student understanding so that both teacher and student can assess learning**
- **Ability of the teacher to react to the mood of the class**
- **Enthusiasm of the teacher and enjoyment of the students**

How do you know that a lesson is not effective

- **If the students start to talk to each other and not engage in the learning**
- **If the students start to lose concentration and look out of the window**
- **If a group of students are disruptive**
- **If you realise that the work is too difficult/ too easy**
- **If the students look confused**
- **If you or the students do not have a clear idea of what they have learnt.**

Ask yourself

Did the students learn a lot in the lesson ?

If you think they did, how do you know this ?

Did the students enjoy the lesson ?

Did you enjoy the lesson ?

Lesson Objectives – A or B ?

A To learn vocabulary about the area where I live

B To learn how to talk about the area where you live

A To learn colours

B To describe your friend talking about what he wears

A To learn introductions

B To be able to introduce yourself to a Chinese person

A To write a letter about yourself

B To write an email to a penfriend

Ideas to start and finish lessons with.....

A challenge

A picture

A question

A game

An activity

A song

Teaching and Learning Activity starters and plenaries

Should

Build on previous knowledge

Be varied and use different skills

Include aspects of the culture of the country if possible

Involve the students in active learning

Include a lot of positive feedback

Challenge your neighbour

In 1 minute

How many food words can you say

Some ideas



Class challenge

How many sentences can you make using

我 坐 火车 中国

法国 朋友 飞机 星期一

爸爸 一起 去 他 和

Using pictures

Have a bank of pictures ready

How can you use them ?



What colours/clothes/family members are there –write them/say them?

Look at the picture and write/say as many sentences as you can

How many questions can you ask about this picture ?

Make up a dialogue using this picture.



吃饭吧

You are invited to join the meal

Introduce yourself -----What would you say ?

家

你在客厅做什么？（看书，看电视）

饭厅在哪儿？（在厨房后面）

客厅里有什么？



Write sentences using these characters and the pictures below

弟弟 打 吃 妹妹 公园 去
和。一起 午饭 乒乓球 哥哥 以后







Photograph by Fritz Hoffmann

Inside the Dragon
National Geographic, May 2008

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Character walls

Character walls

Remember and write down

Make as many sentences as you can

火	弟弟	我	飞	半
骑	车	坐	他	中国
点	机	你	八	船
北京	哥哥	去	六	晚上

Character walls –colour coded

What do the colours represent ?

Use one of each colour and write a sentence

Remember all the red/ blue characters

火

半

弟弟

我

飞

骑

车

坐

他

中国

点

机

你

八

船

北京

哥哥

去

六

晚上

Odd one out

In each row spot the odd one out

吃 去 来 会 送

书 米 笔 尺 画

黑 百 蓝 绿 黄

雨 风 雪 春 热

Writing

Finish the sentence

我在客厅。 。 。 。

我穿。 。 。 。

我在北京。 。 。

Spot the mistake and rewrite the correct sentence

我吃早饭八点。

我打网球很好。

我比他很高。

Carry on writing.....

我昨天去了。 。 。 。 。 。

星期六我的朋友请我。 。 。 。 。

我明年想去北京。 。 。 。 。

Reorganise into the correct order.....

星期天爸一去园起和我了星公爸。

How many changes can you make ?

Rewrite the sentence and change something

我星期六在公园和哥哥一起踢足球。

(Students could write)

我星期六在体育馆和哥哥一起踢足球。

我昨天在公园和哥哥一起踢足球。

Listening

What is wrong ?

Grammar mistake

Say a sentence with the wrong word order

我起床六点 correct to 我六点起床。

Tone mistake

Say a sentence with a wrong tone

student identifies and corrects

Pronunciation mistake

Say a sentence with a wrong pronunciation

Student corrects, for example

我走飞去北京 correct to 我坐飞机去北京。

Meaning mistake

For example

北京在中国的南边 correct to 北京在中国的北边

春节中国人吃粽子 correct to 春节中国人吃饺子

Get pupils moving around

Put out cards round the room with a start and finish of a sentence –students have to go round and match the cards.

For example: 今天天气很冷 我想在家看电视

Put cards around the room with characters on in a range of categories. Give students a category and they have to go round and find cards that are in the their category.

下车



y

Country
Food/drink
In the room
Sport

Read my mind

A teacher or a student stands at the front and starts a sentence stopping before the end – they have in their mind the end of the sentence.

Rest of students take it in turns to guess what they think the ending is.

For example

我在客厅。 。 。 。

我喜欢学习。 。 。

我午饭吃了。 。 。

Running dictation

(practices reading and writing)

**Have a pack of sentences at one end of the room.
Students in two teams at the other end of the room.**

First student in each team runs to pick up a sentence, reads and remembers it and goes back and says the sentence to second team member who writes it down.

Winning team is the team with the most correct sentences written down.

Using cards

Ask students to make cards up for the characters that they have learnt.

- Test in pairs
- Play snap
- Lay all the cards done and memorise where each card is
Use two sets of cards, lay out face down.
Turn one card over at a time – find the pairs
- Put cards round the room – you say a word and the students have to find the card for that word.
- Put cards in a bag. A student draws out a card and has to say a sentence using that card.
- Student goes out of the room. Place a card with a character or phrase on it in the room. The class know where one card is and the student that has gone out has to find out where it is. As the student moves round the room the class say the word loud if the student is near and soft if far away.

Websites Songs

<http://howdoilearnchinese.com/> song and games

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tHmkDmZVZt8> sing colours

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tCKGoND0pS0> SHE 中国话

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2XTBwvi0h2E> Americans perform
对不起，我的中文不好

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zJPkDdW1rHM&feature=topvideos_mf
Jason Chen sings Justin Bieber's song Baby

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b0MklcpPt54>
Chinese version of Rebecca Black's song Friday

Other websites to help you teach

<http://www.worldinfozone.com/Quiz/China/quiz.php> quiz about China

<http://quizlet.com/4010732/jinbu-school-subjects-flash-cards/>
vocab activities

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ecSYHf0fxrw&feature=BFa&list=SP1B107B6B1E3C3453&lf=list_related Documentary about Chinese history

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/chinese/> short film clips and language activities

<http://college.chinese.cn/en/> Confucius Institute website – films , games

<http://www.shuifeng.net/Pinyin.Asp> for teaching character writing

<http://www.tudou.com/> songs and films

<http://chinesepod.com/> learn Chinese