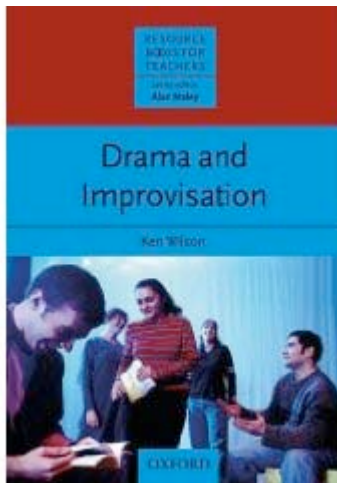


Sporting Excellence simulation:

- 1 Students choose name, nationality and sporting ability
- 2 They choose the location and duration of the Sporting Excellence conference
- 3 They introduce themselves to each other
- 4 They arrange to meet later
- 5 Someone is 30 minutes late and apologises *profusely*
- 6 They say goodbye to each other at the airport
- 7 They decide on the location of next year's conference
- 8 They write to their governments for funding
- 9 They meet the following year

This activity is taken from my OUP book:



Drama and Improvisation. Ken Wilson (2008)
Oxford University Press. ISBN 978-0-19-442580-3



***The Scream* - Edvard Munch**

The Scream (Norwegian: ***Skrik***; created 1893-1910) is the title of a series of expressionist paintings and prints in a series by Norwegian artist Edvard Munch (1863-1944), depicting an agonized figure against a blood red sky. The landscape in the background is Oslofjord, viewed from the hill of Ekeberg, in Oslo (then Kristiania), Norway.

A scary message to all teachers -

You are working TOO HARD and you are taking too much responsibility for what happens in the classroom.

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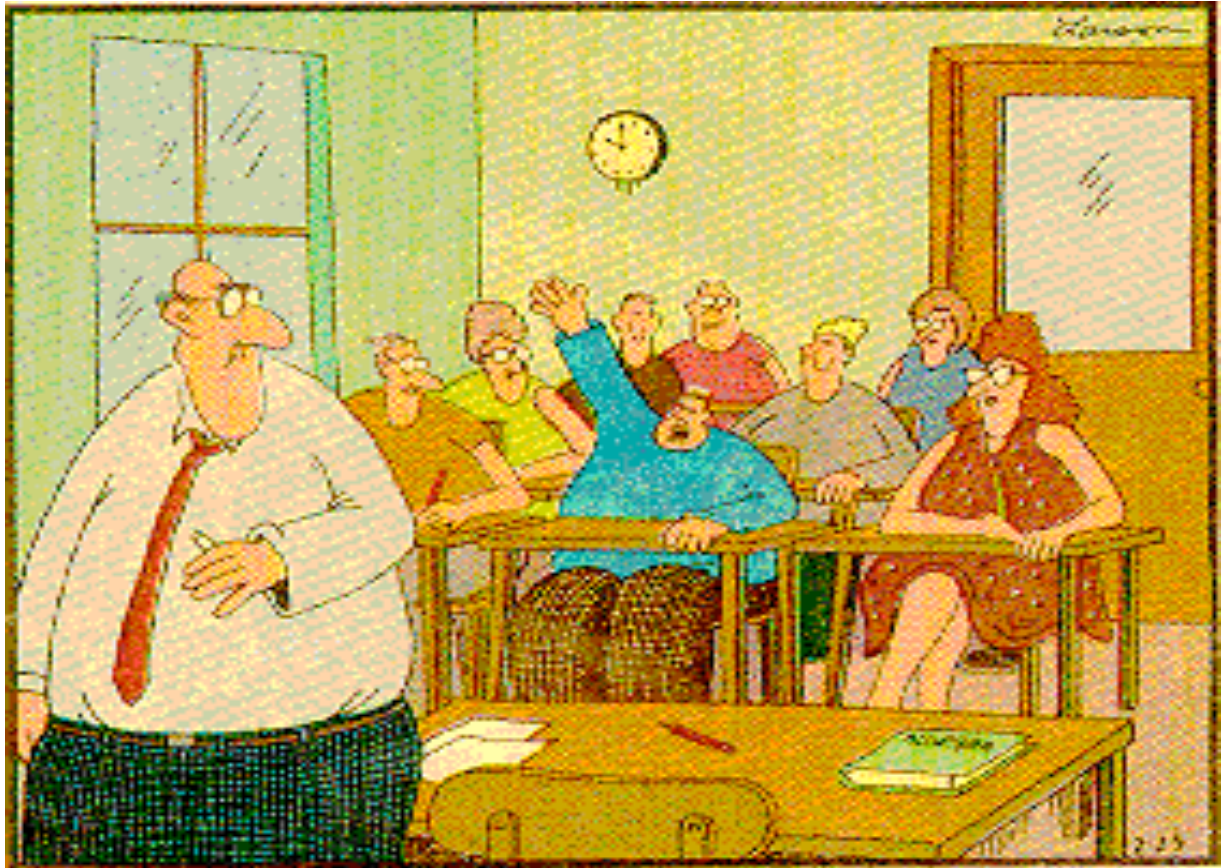


“Do you still get paid if I’m not learning anything?”

What is the solution?

Give more responsibility for what happens in the classroom to the majority of the occupants...





Mr Osbourne, may I be excused? My brain is full.

Map of the book - specimen activity

What do you know about ...

- great white sharks?
- American prisons?
- meeting people online?
- Julius Caesar?
- Heath Ledger?
- megacities?
- Ian Fleming?
- Bethany Hamilton?

The courage of the one-armed surfer



Bethany Hamilton - check her out!!

A narrative reading text - Doctors and Nurses

At the hospital near where I live, all the doctors are women and all the nurses are men. When new patients arrive at the hospital, they always call the doctors nurses, which makes the doctors feel quite annoyed. And they also call the nurses doctors, which makes the nurses feel quite pleased.

One day at the hospital, a patient (a man) approached a doctor. 'Excuse me, nurse,' said the patient. 'When can I see the doctor?'

'Listen,' said the doctor. 'I'm a doctor, and the man over there that you think is a doctor is actually a student nurse.'

'Oh, sorry,' said the patient. 'The last time I came to this hospital, that doctor --- sorry, that nurse --- that nurse said that you were a nurse.'

'Well, I'm not,' said the doctor. 'I'm a doctor, not a nurse.'

'Well, once again, sorry about that,' said the patient.

'By the way, what's your name?'

'Nurse,' said the doctor. 'Doctor Nurse.'

An informative reading text - 6 things you might not know about language

- 1 The oldest written language is ... The earliest hieroglyphics are dated 3,100 BC, more than 5,000 years ago.**
- 2 The English word with the most dictionary definitions is**
- 3 There are about 7,000 languages and dialects spoken in the world. About ... of them are spoken in India.**
- 4 is spoken as a first language by more people than any other language in the world. It is spoken by nearly 70 per cent of a population of 1.3 billion people.**
- 5 The commonest sound in language is the ... sound.**
- 6 There is an African language which has only three numbers. The numbers are ...**

6 things you might not know about language

- 1 The oldest written language is Egyptian. The earliest hieroglyphics are dated 3,100 BC, more than 5,000 years ago.
- 2 The English word with the most dictionary definitions is *set*.
- 3 There are about 7,000 languages and dialects spoken in the world. About 845 of them are spoken in India.
- 4 Mandarin Chinese is spoken as a first language by more people than any other language in the world. It is spoken by nearly 70 per cent of a population of 1.3 billion people.
- 5 The commonest sound in language is the /a:/ sound, as in *father*.
- 6 There is an African language which has only three numbers. The numbers are *one*, *two* and *more than two*.

The arguments about 'set'

Set is no longer the longest entry in the Oxford English Dictionary!

For many years the verb *set* has been cited as the longest entry in the OED. But a re-check shows that it has at last been toppled from this position. The longest entry in the revised edition is the verb *make*. However, it is quite possible that *set* will regain its long-held position at the top of the league of long words when it comes itself to be revised.

The longest entries currently in the online Third Edition of the OED are: *make* (verb), *set* (verb), *run* (verb), *take* (verb), *go* (verb), *pre-*, *non-*, *over-*, *stand* (verb).

In fact, *set* (noun + verb) probably still has the most definitions - about 170!!

Exercises - make them into real situations

My examples:

Choose an appropriate future tense

- 1 (VISIT) We.... my grandparents this weekend and I'm really looking forward to it.
- 2 (LEAVE) What time the next plane for Toulouse?
- 3 (LET) I you know as soon as the doctor arrives.
- 4 (DO) What you ... this time next year?

Some Final Thoughts

- 1 A lot of learning is passive. Students have to spend a lot of time listening to the teacher and/or reading a text.

Exercise material is particularly passive. Stimulus sentences are usually written in a way that means reasonably aware students can do them in their sleep.

- 2 A lot of students enjoy passive learning. They are the ones who smile when you start talking, or look really pleased when you tell them to open the book and read something. But the reality is that these students may represent only 10% of the class, and at most 25 per cent. The other 75-90% will not benefit from a diet of mainly passive learning.

- 3 Learners retain more of what they are taught when they are actively involved in the learning process and statistics suggest that, if students don't feel involved, an incredible amount of 'learnt' material is forgotten very quickly.

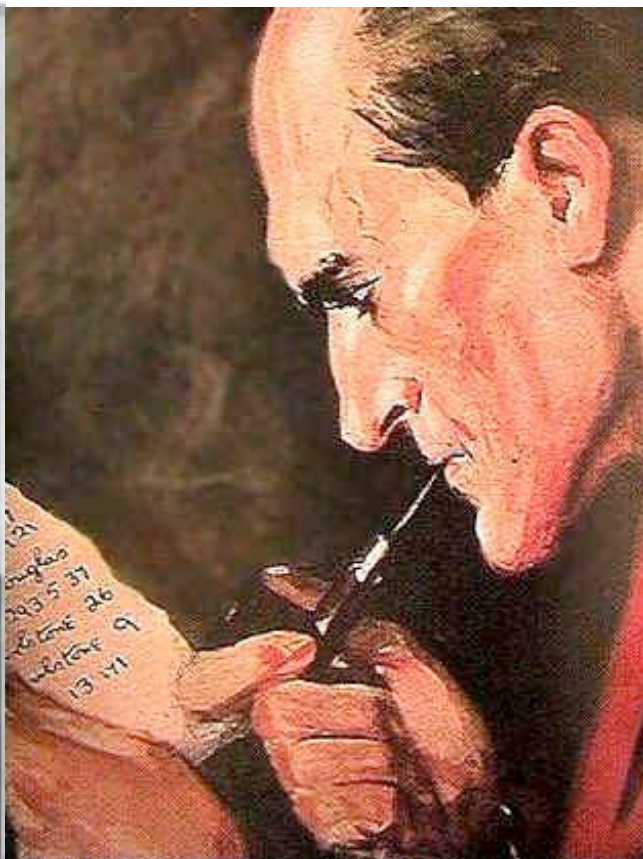
- 4 Active learning can be fun and fun activities can generate laughter. This is a plus - there is a definite relationship between laughter and learning. As we say in English, laughter is a great *aide memoire*. 😊

- 5 There are teachers who think that knowledge is power and that this means they are more powerful and more valuable if they have ALL the knowledge. This is a dangerous attitude!

Allowing students to be more involved in their own learning may mean that teachers have to give up some of the power and authority that they have in the classroom.



Sir Arthur Conan Doyle



Sherlock Holmes



Holmes and Watson - Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson went on a camping trip. As they lay down for the night, Holmes said: "Watson, look up into the sky and tell me what you see."

Watson said: "I see millions and millions of stars."

"And what does that tell you?"

"Astronomically," Watson replied, "it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets."

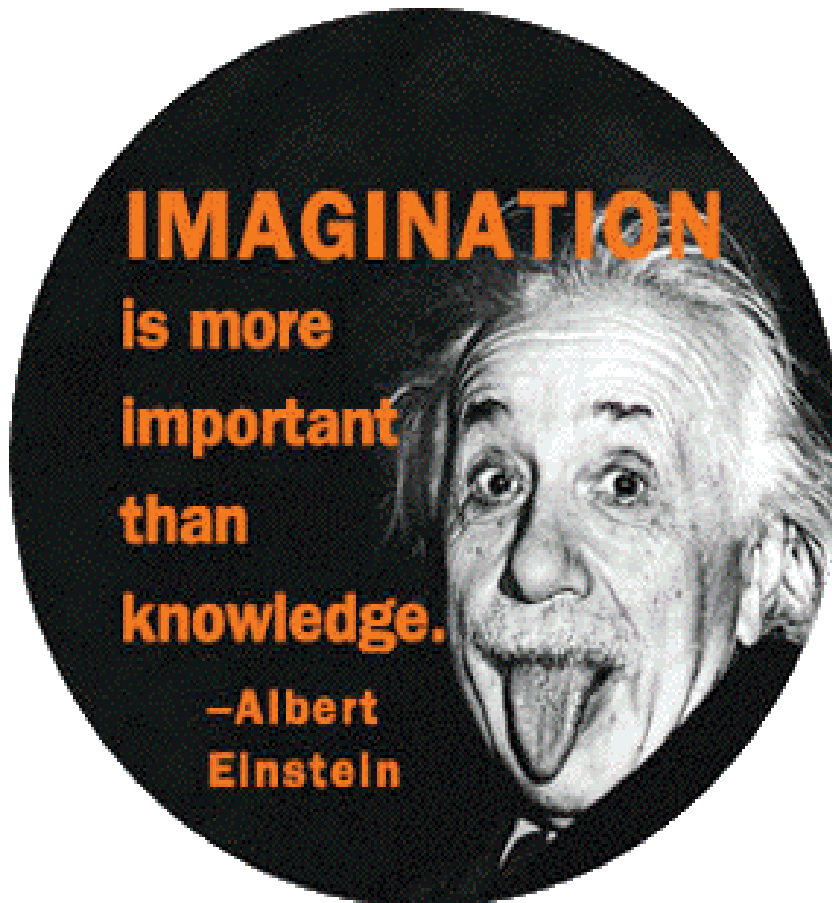
"Theologically, it tells me that God is great and that we are small and insignificant."

"Meteorologically, it tells me that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow."

"What does it tell you, Holmes?"

"Someone's stolen our tent."





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