

TEACHING IMPROVISATION

Based on the work of Judi Garratt

1. Define improvisation and objective.
2. Begin with pantomime improvisation. Without speaking, select a student and get him/her to play catch. When finished ask the students what the objective was and whether or not it was accomplished.
3. Present the rules for improvisation.
 - a. Do not deny a fact.
 - b. Listen to other players.
 - c. Use different methods to get what you want
 - d. Want your objective NOW
4. Model an improvisation with a student saying “no.” (share food)
5. Discuss different methods for achieving objectives.
6. Partners: one has a jacket or watch that the other wants to borrow. Brainstorm reasons for needing the object and methods for getting it.
7. Switch and add a layer. Player with the object is reading a book.
8. Model an improvisation with a student in which each player had an objective (siblings clean room, watch different TV shows).
9. Stop the improvisations, give players 30 seconds to find a conclusion, share conclusions.

This technique requires practice but works in a wide variety of situations and provides authentic situations in which English language learners can practice speaking in a focused and non-threatening manner.

CRITERIA

- Focus on scene; listen to partner
- Heard & understood
- Clearly seen by audience