

Plan Four : English Learning Passport

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1. Plan summary:

The purpose of this plan is to introduce to the students a kind of model which breaks through the traditional classroom learning methods. Students carry a happy mood to learn English in a place where people feel relaxed to improve their English ability gradually, just like they are attending an outside class activity. The specific strategy of this plan is to use our English Coffee Shop and Theater as the places for learning English under different situations, and the language center will hold the following activities periodically. These are entitled: 1. Singing in English 2. Let's go to the movies 3. Story telling with puppets 4. Fun English party 5. English conversation in the coffee shop. In order to encourage students to attend any of these activities, the language center will give out an "English learning passport" to students for them to obtain stamps by attending any of these activities. After getting a certain amount of stamps, students can win prizes by entering the draw. The Language center holds one English skills competition every semester comprising various ways of performing, i.e. students can, for example sing, tell a joke, perform rap music, perform a talk show, or perform with puppets, and the audience will vote to decide the winners, with the winners getting prizes. To enable more students to enjoy and participate in the contests, a game show is held every semester. The questions for the game show vary in difficulty, and students will try to answer as fast as they can and whoever answers right gets the prize. In addition, the stamps on the English learning passport also equate to additional credits at the end of semester. The following is the summary of all the activities:

Course Title: Singing in English

Hours: 3 times per semester, 2 hours per time

Instructor: William Lee(李維德), Frank Huang(黃炳文)

The content and the instruction of the activity, the instructors:

1. Are responsible for this activity chooses or the students recommend two English songs which they want to sing and learn.
2. Print the lyrics and copy the CD or DVD.(or the songs students recommend)
3. Introduce the author and the background of the song first, then explains the lyrics, and assists students practice pronouncing the words in it.
4. Teaches the students how to sing the song, or the student who recommend the song will teach it, and then puts students into groups to perform (or lets them perform individually) when the students are familiar with the song.
5. Invites students, at the end of the activity, to sing the song they are good at,

- and this song doesn't have to be the song they learn on the day of the activity.
6. This activity will be held for 2 hours each time.

Expected result:

1. At least 20 students attend the activity every time.
2. Students are capable of singing the song they learn at the end of the activity.
3. Students will understand all the important vocabulary and idioms in the lyrics.
4. The satisfaction of students is higher than 4.5 (out of 5).

Course Title: Let's go to the movies

Hours: 3 times per semester, 2 hours per time

Instructor: Bob Zhan (詹村陸)

The content and the instruction of the activity:

1. The teacher responsible for this activity chooses or the students recommend an English movie which they want to watch and learn.
2. The teacher introduces the background, set, actors, and actresses of the movie, and asks students to notice some important parts of the movie first, and then to show the movie to students.
3. The teacher holds a "quiz with prize" activity focusing on the story of the movie.
4. The teacher offers a list of the words, idioms and phrases which the narration uses in the movie, and explains and gives examples on those on the list.

Expected result:

1. At least 20 students attend the activity every time.
2. Students know all the important vocabulary, idioms, and phrases used in the movie.
3. Students are capable of answering the questions related to the content of the movie and share their thoughts after watching it.
4. The satisfaction of students is higher than 4.5 (out of 5).

Course Title: Story telling with puppets

Hours: 3 times per semester, 2 hours per time

Instructor: Vicky Chen (陳慧琪)

The content and the instruction of the activity:

1. The teacher chooses some simple and interesting stories, and performs them with puppets on the stage of Theater in order to tell the story.

2. The teacher tells the story first, and then offers a list of important vocabulary, phrases, or idioms for students to practice.
3. The teacher encourages students to try to tell the same story with puppets.
4. The teacher asks students to make some changes to the story, and maybe add some parts they create by themselves.

Expected result:

1. At least 20 students attend the activity every time.
2. Students can repeat some important vocabulary, phrases, or idioms that the teacher tells in the story.
3. Students can repeat the story using their own simplified words.
4. The satisfaction of students is higher than 4.5 (out of 5).

Course Title: Fun English party

Hours: 6 times per semester, 2 hours per time

Instructor: Silvia Yang (楊聖心), Vicky Chen (陳慧琪), Andrew Mackwood (木大弘)

The content and the instruction of the activity:

(A.) Learning English through cooking

1. The instructors explain the ingredients and cooking process in the recipe book.
2. The instructors put students into groups to practice.
3. The students share their results.

(B.) Learning English through coloring

1. The instructors explain the materials and the coloring process.
2. The instructors put students into groups to practice.
3. The students share their results.

(C.) Learning English through games

1. The instructors explain the rules of the games.
2. The instructors play games with a big group of students or several small groups of students.

Expected result:

1. At least 20 students attend the activity every time.
2. Students will understand the vocabulary used in these activities and will be capable of describing the processes or rules of all these activities roughly.
3. The satisfaction of students is higher than 4.5 (out of 5).

Course Title: English coffee shop

Hours: 24 times in the first semester, 25 times in the second semester, 4 hours per time

Instructor: Caleb Ho (何可毅)

The content and the instruction of activity:

1. The Language center will first do a questionnaire survey to find out the topics that students are interested in or care about, such as school life, entertainment, hobby, favorite celebrities, the importance of cell phone, the ways to make friends, the five characteristics of the person I like most and the person I hate most, and so on. Later, they will make them a “small talk list” and arrange topics every week as the criteria for students to practice conversation.
2. The language center asks a foreign teacher to stay in the coffee shop, and practice conversation with students by chatting and periodically playing games with the students. The purpose of doing this is to decrease the fear of talking to foreigners, and to build their confidence in speaking English.
3. Students who are both interested in English and have free time can be hired as a part-time assistant in the coffee shop in order to get a chance to practice English by using English in the role of a waiter or a waitress.

Expected result:

1. At least 10 students attend the activity every time.
2. Students are capable of making some simple conversation.
3. The satisfaction of students is higher than 4.5 out of 5.

2. Procedure

1. The language center promotes this course widely through the language center website, campus posters, and English teachers.
2. The language center makes Learning passports for students.
3. The language begins the activities on the 4th week of the semester. The Coffee shop opens for 4 hours on 2 afternoons every week for students to practice conversation via free talking. The Theater opens periodically to hold the activities “Singing in English”, “Let’s go to the movies”, “Story telling with puppies”, and “Fun English party.”
4. The language center holds 1) an English talent show every semester, and the audience votes for the winners; and 2) holds a game show to encourage more students to participate in English activities?? by giving them questions which are appropriate to their English levels..
5. Students can get stamps by participating in activities, where one stamp equates

to one hour's attendance or one time attendance depends on what kind of the activity is. They can also enter the Lucky Draw once they have obtained 4 stamps.

6. Students will hand in their learning passports to their English teachers at the end of the semester to be translated into additional credits.

3. Possible difficulties and Solutions

Possible difficulties:

1(a): The foreign teachers needed in these activities must have a Master's degree and be experienced in teaching. This kind of foreign teacher usually asks for higher hourly pay and they feel dissatisfied with pre-paid income tax.

Solution:

1(b): If there are some difficulties finding the foreign teachers we need, it is also possible to hire other foreign teachers who have a bachelor's degree and some English teaching training. Also, asking some foreign professors from our school to assist with the activities is another possible way to solve this problem.

Possible difficulties:

2(a): Because all the departments in school schedule most of their classes in the same period of time, a lot of students will have a whole day or a whole afternoon with no classes to attend. As for the four days with classes, students have to attend classes almost the whole day, and as a result they don't have free time to participate in English activities. It is a pity that they are not able to participate in these activities.

Solution:

2(b): Ask the minister of the office of academic affairs to negotiate with all the departments and ask them to leave one or two free classes when making their timetables, and to encourage students to participate in these activities.

Possible difficulties:

3(a): Students have low motivation in learning English. They would rather do some part-time job instead of using some extra time and energy to participate in these activities.

Solution:

3(b): The Language center asks English teachers to help to encourage students to participate enthusiastically in the activities, and try to increase the desire to participate, by giving additional credits.

Possible difficulties:

4(a): The English ability of students is generally low, and they are so (lacking in

confidence) unconfident that they think they are not capable of participating (in) English activities when they can not even learn well in (a) normal English class. The teacher has to force students to attend the activities.

Solution:

4(b): (Teachers) The teacher leading the activities will try their best to 1) use lively ways of teaching, 2) slow the speed of speaking, 3) simplify the English used, 4) take (make) a lot of gestures, and 5) use some supporting materials to lower the fear of students and raise the interests of learning.

4. Software and hardware purchasing and resource sharing:

A. The software and hardware which will be purchased in this plan are as follows:

1. Name:

Coffee grinder

Purpose:

Offer students coffee during conversation practice

2. Name:

The Public Broadcasting version DVD video

Purpose:

Used for “Let’s go to the movies”

B. Resource sharing:

1. Invite the foreign teachers from our sister school to come here to hold teaching activities.
2. Use internet resources to obtain some free teaching materials such as youtube.
3. Borrow legal multimedia teaching materials from students or teachers.
4. Request the PR of Mars. Limited in Nangang Business Park to support and sponsor the competitions and activities.