THE MAGIC OF THE INDEX CARD

Engaging the Passive Language Learner in the Target Language

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Some advantages to the index card?

- It provides a single manipulative for students to focus on

- It provides a common springboard from which numerous activities can be launched

- It’s ready to go and requires little or no “set up” time

- It reduces the amount of stimuli for the student
A FEW TIPS BEFORE WE BEGIN:

- Limit vocabulary to one lesson being studied

- Avoid groups of 3 or more

- Encourage students to provide the prompts or ask the questions in target language

- “Join in” the game wherever possible
ACTIVITY #1: ALIEN TIC TAC TOE

Language creation through explanation

Objective: Make the “alien” understand

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 X   X
O   O
X   O
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ACTIVITY #2: “HEADS UP”

Language creation through explanation

Objective: Make your partner identify the vocabulary word on his/her forehead
“BREAKFAST FOOD, POPULAR WITH KIDS, FROSTING, FRUIT FILLING, TOASTER”
“Comida del desayuno, popular con los niños, relleno con fruta, se usa con la tostadora”
ACTIVITY #3: DIALOGUES

Question formation and response incorporating vocabulary

Step 1: Each student creates an original question incorporating the vocabulary word on his/her index card. (Yes/No questions not recommended…)

Step 2: Students get in groups of two (with someone they have not worked with yet) and ask/answer each other’s questions in dialogue form.
Sample dialogue questions

Where can you buy pop tarts?

I can buy them at any grocery store.

What are two flavors of pop tarts?

Strawberry and maple sugar are two flavors of pop tarts.

When did you last eat a pop tart?

I ate a pop tart last week.

How many pop tarts come in a regular box?

Six pop tarts come in a regular box.

What company makes pop tarts?

Kelloggs makes pop tarts.