Sequencing Activities

*Sequence of steps
in the right order*

Sequencing activities simply involve students putting a sequence of steps in a process or procedure in the correct order. For instance, they might be about the steps involved in fitting an electrical switch, setting up and naming a word processing file or assembling equipment. Sequencing activities not only assist students to remember the order in cases where this is important, but give them a language to talk about the process eg, the names of the steps and the equipment used for them. Sequencing activities could involve text instructions, pictures and/or diagrams or combinations of these. If used in groups or pairs then, in order to promote cooperation and discussion, the set of instructions are cut into strips for students in pairs or groups, to assemble correctly.

Processes

Procedures

Uses of sequencing activities

Sequencing activities can be used in a variety of ways, for instance:

- as a revision strategy at the beginning or end of a session

- to turn passive reading of processes in text books and manual into meaningful activities

- to promote student discussion during a class

- to change literacy mode during a teaching session

- to bring students together during long practical workshops where they would primarily be working alone

For revision

*Practise using
new language*

Benefits of sequencing activities

Sequencing activities have a number of benefits they:

- assist students remember a process

- help students learn the names of the steps in a process and the tools used

- encourage students to use the language associated with a process

- promote student sharing of their understanding if used with pairs or small groups

Developing a sequencing activity for your teaching

You can develop a sequencing activity from any set of instructions in a manual or textbook even if they are not already written in a step by step form. All you need to do is to rewrite the steps in clear simple sentences that are spaced out on the page to allow for cutting. Order the list of clearly in separate sentences and arrange them in a table for ease of cutting.

Cut the pieces and place in an envelope or clip them together with a bulldog clip – make one set per pair or small group

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Beth Marr & Barbara Morgan, RMIT University – a Reframing the Future project, 2005

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The following activity has been adapted from *eHow- How to paint clouds on a ceiling*
http://www.ehow.com/how_12569_paint-clouds-ceiling.html accessed 19 June, 2005

Ensure that you do not cut with wavy lines that can be matched up like a jigsaw afterwards because this defeats the purpose of promoting thinking about steps and language.

Follow as for Cloze or Matching or True or False

How to paint clouds on a ceiling

Michelangelo painted a ceiling and you can too! Here's how to create an airy, cloud-filled room.

⊙ Steps:

1.   Remove or cover furniture and put down a drop cloth.

2.   Paint the ceiling blue and let it dry..

3.   Pour white paint into a roller tray.

4.   Holding a sponge flat, dip it into the paint.

5.   Dab the paint-filled sponge on the ceiling.

6.   Make clouds in a free-form shape. You may want to have some pictures of clouds on hand for Reference

7.   Use more paint in the centre of the cloud, and less paint as you move out toward the edges.

8.   Leave some areasof blue showing through the white for a light, transparent look.

9.   Make clouds of different sizes.

10.   Cover the ceiling evenly, but randomly, with clouds.

Tips:

- Keep some of the blue ceiling paint on hand for covering mistakes and touching up.

- After the painted clouds have dried, stick some glow-in-the-dark stars on the ceiling for a starry-night effect after dark

- Purchase a sky-themed ceiling fan or light fixture. Purchase a sky-themed ceiling fan or light fixture

- Hang stars, model airplanes or a planet mobile from the ceiling. Hang stars, model airplanes or a planet mobile from the ceiling.

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Warnings

- Have adequate ventilation while you are painting and while paint is drying.

- Protect yourself from drips by wearing a cap or scarf and old clothes.

- Use caution when working on a ladder. Make sure it is stable before climbing on

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