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TEACHING QUOTES
IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSROOM

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В статье рассматриваются некоторые способы использования цитат в обучении английскому языку. Цитирование является одним из стимулирующих приемов в обучении иностранному языку и позволяет решать целый ряд дидактических задач.

Ключевые слова: приемы обучения цитированию, образовательные цели, переносное значение слова.

Some ways of teaching quotes are considered in the article. Quotation is one of the incentive strategies in foreign language teaching allowing to solve a whole number of didactic tasks.

Keywords: strategies of teaching quotes, educational goals, figurative meaning of the word.

Log onto your favorite social media platform, and you are bound to be met with at least one inspirational quote. Why do people share these with such frequency? It's because we can relate and see ourselves in the words shared by another. Our students are no different, and there are many ways to use relatable quotes by famous people, authors, or historical figures as a way to not only inspire your students, but to launch student writing and discussions, help students make connections, and practice and improve foreign language skills and standards. Below there are some ways to use quotes in the English language classroom.

Writing Prompts

Quotes make thought-provoking writing prompts, so you might consider using them as weekly bell-ringers. Project or write the quote on the board and have students make a personal connection between the quote and their own life or to current events in their school, community, or world. They could also **evaluate** the quote to share why they agree or disagree with the statement. For example, you could share the quote: "Nobody can give you wiser advice than yourself." – Marcus Cicero. This is a statement that would work well for evaluation as there should be a good mix of those who agree and those who don't. Quotes can also be used to help students practice language skills-based activities and meet standards in the curriculum. They can be used to help students grow their vocabulary and improve their understanding of figurative language, grammar rules, sentence types, and parts of speech.

Figurative Language

Give students a quote that includes figurative language like "Failure is the condiment that gives success it's flavor." and have students properly label and explain it's use as a metaphor.

Vocabulary

Share quotes with challenging words in them and have students infer its meaning in context (or look up the words if they need to). For instance, you might have students infer the meaning of the word obscure in this quote: "There's a world of difference between truth and facts. Facts can obscure the truth." – Maya Angelou

Grammar

Intentionally insert grammar errors that your students are struggling with into quotes and have them edit and explain the changes they make. For example, you might use the quote: "The future belongs too those who believe in the beauty of there dreams" – Eleanor Roosevelt. Students would correct the two errors (too = to / there = their) and explain that these are common homophone errors.

Parts of Speech

Share quotes with students and bold different parts of speech, and have them label which part of speech is highlighted. For example, you might share the quote "Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light" – JK Rowling and students can label the word Happiness as a noun. Sentence Types: Share quotes with students and have them label the type of sentence that is used: simple, compound, complex, or compound-complex. For example, you could share the quote "The only way to do great work is to do what you love." –Steve Jobs and have students label it as a simple sentence.

Inspirational Classroom Décor

Quotes can serve double-duty in your classroom as decor for your walls or bulletin boards and also as a way to speak to the challenges that students may be facing. You could choose to set up a bulletin board with multiple quotes that relate to what students might be going through, or instead share a quote of the week. You may also use rules quote posters to remind students of your classroom expectations. For example, you might use a Shakespearean quote like "Better three hours too soon than a minute too late" to remind students of the importance of being punctual. Or, the quote, "saying nothing sometimes says the most" might remind students to pay attention and not speak out of turn in class.

Text-To-World Connections

Have students find a quote that relates in some way to a non-fiction article on a current news event and explain its connection. The quote will help them formulate or extend on their own opinions. For example, if there is a violent crisis happening in the world, a student might choose the quote, "An eye for an eye will leave the whole world blind." – Gandhi and explain the connection and their own opinions on violence as a means of resolving an issue. This activity forces the student to think more deeply about current events and make connections between what they are reading and how it applies to the world around them.

Debate Topics

There are many controversial quotations that will allow students to practice their debate skills by taking on the side of either the affirmative or the negative. Quotes are an easy way to host mini-debates in preparation for a class debate. You can put students in pairs and assign one the affirmative and one the negative side. Give them five minutes to prepare their speech and then they deliver it to their partner.

A few examples of controversial quotes you might use:

"An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind." –Mahatma Gandhi
"We cannot lead anyone farther than we have been ourselves." –John Maxwell
"The man who does not read has no advantage over the man who cannot read." – Mark Twain.

Credible Sources

Quotes are often misattributed, and it can sometimes be challenging tracking down who the original author or speaker was. This provides an opportunity for you to show students the importance of using credible sources to find their information. You might consider giving students some quotes that have been attributed to more than one person, and take them through the process of trying to narrow down who actually said it. You can show them proper research techniques, how to know which websites are credible, and cross-referencing information. Here are a few sample quotes that have been attributed to more than one person that you could use as examples: "Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing." – Henry Russel "Red" Sanders (often misattributed to Vince Lombardi) "It is better to be hated for what you are than to be loved for what you are not." – Andre Gide (sometimes misattributed to Marilyn Monroe, Kurt Cobain).

Compare and Contrast

Comparing and contrasting skills can be improved by giving student two quotes that give either opposite advice or similar advice. You'll want to ask students to describe how the quotes are similar or different in their meaning and evaluate both quotes to see what they think provides better advice. For example, you might have students compare and contrast these two quotes: "Don't fake it till you make it. Fake it till you become it." – Amy Cuddy and "Don't ever trade your authenticity for approval." – Unknown.

Artistic Projects

Break out the markers and have students select a quote from their independent novel (or something you are reading in class) that they felt was important or inspiring. Allow them to create a classroom poster that features their quote prominently. Do keep in mind, though that you shouldn't grade students based on their artistic abilities. Simply give them creative control and let them have fun with it. If you need to attach a grade to the assignment or connect it with a standard, consider having students write a paragraph on the back of the poster explaining the significance of the quote.

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