

USING “BLACKBOARD RACE” TECHNIQUES IN TEACHING GRAMMAR

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Abstract: The current article is focused on emphasizing the advantages of games in teaching grammar to young learners. In addition, mentioned about effective methods teaching grammar with games.

Key words: *grammar, blackboard race, language, knowledge, method, inductive, deductive, interactive*

Grammar can play the important role as a foundation in learning foreign language. And also Teaching grammar for beginners is not quite easy, but it is not difficult to teach. School learners have their own way to accept a new knowledge and they will accept all of it by happiness. Teacher need to find good method and good media to teach grammar, and one of the effective methods is using games although children learn a language faster than adults, they do not learn through traditional language teaching methods. Through fun games, children can learn a language better as learning becomes natural for them since these activities do not make them conscious that they are learning a language.

English grammar is difficult to learn for both native and second-language learners. There are so many intricacies, obscure rules, and exceptions that it comes as no surprise that different generation of teachers have used various approaches and methods to teaching grammar to train literate English writers. In the past, memorization-based techniques that relied on repetition slowly gave way to more creative methods. Today, we live in a society that prizes literacy and is willing to adapt to effective methods to achieve the best results in teaching grammar to learners. When teaching grammar, it is

essential to know the methods that can be used in the classroom. As Larsen- Freeman says that, “A knowledge of methods is part of the knowledge base of teaching”. [Brown H.D., 2001]

Grammar methodology underwent many changes in the history. Here is an overview of the most significant methods:

1. Grammar translation method
2. Direct method
3. Oral approach
4. Total physical response
5. Diagramming Sentences
6. Learning through Writing
7. Inductive Teaching
8. Deductive Teaching
9. Interactive Teaching

Another method of teaching grammar is to incorporate interactivity into lessons. Using games to teach grammar not only engages learners but also helps them to remember what they have learned. This method allows teachers to tailor their lessons to the different learning styles of learners. For instance, each learner can be given a large flashcard with a word on it, and the learners must physically arrange themselves into a proper sentence. Other games can include word puzzles or fun online quizzes. [Johnson K., 2001]

Over the years, many methods have been developed for teaching grammar and have been built upon, abandoned, or combined, all with the same goal in mind—teaching learners how to communicate effectively and understand how to use the English language. Some lessons are less likely to be remembered, while others may require more in-depth explanation and practice. Regardless of how grammar is taught, a well-rounded understanding of English grammar is the most important factor in improving the literacy of learners.

For teaching grammar, we can use different and interesting games to improve

pupils' knowledge. There are some games, which is considered very effective and useful to enhance pupils' motivation to the grammar lessons.

“Blackboard Race” techniques. Divide the board into two halves, and divide the class into two teams. Call out a theme or category for learned vocabulary words and have learners run to the board and write as many related words as possible.

For example, you might call out something like, “Animals you will see at the zoo!” and one learner from each team must run up to the board and write as many English zoo animal names as they can think of within a certain time limit. This game gets learners thinking quickly and creatively. [Jalolov J., 2012]

As we know, to draw young learners attention is very difficult because they have very short attention span. Therefore, teachers should choose appropriate teaching methods and techniques to break the boredom. In addition, young learner less shy and very imaginative, to make grammar lessons more interesting language teachers should use interesting and funny games for them. Although the researcher observed the given class during several lessons, it was very difficult for the researcher to conduct the lessons. They were very active and very noisy. During the lessons, the researcher gave them various gifts such as starts, sweets and toys in order to motivate and encourage their participation to the lessons.

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