

## AN ART OF USING STORYTELLING IN ELT CLASS

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*“If you want your children to be smart, tell them stories.  
If you want them to be really smart, tell them more stories.  
If you want your children to be brilliant, tell them even more stories.”*  
Albert Einstein

It's known that storytelling is widely used in management, marketing, PR, psychotherapy, copywriting, web-design, rhetoric, etc. However, nowadays, storytelling has become very popular educational tool in teaching practice. It helps not only to make a variety of classes, but also allows students to develop communicative skills.

The purpose of the article is to prove that storytelling allows you to make the learning process more effective and has a positive effect on the development of communicative skills.

What is Storytelling? It is a “story” is “a description of how something happened, that is intended to entertain people, and may be true or imaginary” (*Longman dictionary of contemporary English online, 2009*). This technique was developed and successfully tested on personal experience by David Armstrong, chairman of the international company Armstrong International. “Storytelling is a technology for creating story and transmitting necessary information with its help in order to influence the listener's emotional, motivational, and cognitive spheres”. (*Armstrong,1992, p. 108*).

There are different types of storytelling:

1) Cultural - talks about the values, morality and beliefs; 2) Social - the story of people about each other (you can tell children stories about lives of famous people, as an example for them to build their lives); 3) Myths, legends - they reflect culture and remind us of what in life should be avoided in order to be happy; 4) Jump story - everyone loves to listen to stories about unreal creatures, when an unexpected ending makes you jump in a chair for fear. Such stories help overcome your own fears; 5) Family - family legends keep the history of our ancestors. These stories are passed on from generation to generation and are instructive; 6) Friendly - these stories unite friends, because they recall a certain experience that they have experienced together; 7) Personal - personal stories about their own experiences. This is an important kind of storytelling, because such stories help you understand yourself and begin to develop.

Modern students communicate mainly in the virtual world. Therefore, real communication becomes an art that needs to be taught again. Storytelling is perfect tool for developing communicative skills through which students are able to learn a FL.

Through exploring stories and developing storytelling skills, language learners build greater confidence . They develop fluency, expand their vocabulary, enhance their grammar, improve their reading, writing and listening skills, and develop their pronunciation. Storytelling activates the imagination and encourages

creative thinking in the classroom. For example, Cocna (2018) defines storytelling as a creative story and suggests using it as an essential educational instrument for developing creative speaking/writing in ELT class. David Heathfield (2014), an experienced teacher and dedicated storyteller in his book “Storytelling With Our Students” proves that storytelling develop students' imagination, logic, and increase the level of cultural education. Stories allow you to tell about how decisions are made and build relationships. Through the exchange of stories, students and teachers build emotional connections and create better interaction. In modern language teaching, it is important to “minimize teacher talking time” (Harmer, 2007, p. 117). The storytelling which involves interaction between the student and the teacher should naturally be based on this prerequisite to establish an appropriate amount of student talking time, which seems to be a feasible option to make learning more enjoyable and your teaching more learner-centered.

More and more teachers find storytelling to be an effective interactive teaching tool to develop ability to communicate in a second language clearly. With this aim, various storytelling activities can be easily applied at ELT class. We would like to present the short list of some activities that can be used at the ELT classes.

*Strip Story.* Cut the following sentences into strips. Give each pair or group of students a sentence. Suggest that the students read each of the strips aloud to start. Then, tell them to put the story back in order without looking at the original. Tell them to notice words that tell you when something happens, such as “first,” “then,” and “finally.” When the students are ready, they can read the story to you, each group or pair reading their sentence strips in order. Discuss with them why they put the sentences in the order they did.

*Story Completion.* This is a very enjoyable, whole-class, free-speaking activity for which students sit in a circle. For this activity, a teacher starts to tell a story, but after a few sentences he or she stops narrating. Then, each student starts to narrate from the point where the previous one stopped. Each student is supposed to add from four to ten sentences. Students can add new characters, events, descriptions and so on.

*Picture Narrating.* This activity is based on several sequential pictures. Students are asked to tell the story taking place in the sequential pictures by paying attention to the criteria provided by the teacher as a rubric. Rubrics can include the vocabulary or structures they need to use while narrating.

*The Storyboards* teaching strategy helps students keep track of a narrative's main ideas and supporting details by having them illustrate the story's important scenes. Storyboarding can be used when texts are read aloud or when students read independently. Checking the thoroughness and accuracy of students' storyboards is an effective way for you to evaluate reading comprehension before moving on to more analytic tasks.

Thus, the suggested list of listed above storytelling activities can contribute a great deal to students in developing basic interactive and communicative skills necessary for life. These activities make students more active in the learning.

## References

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