



RECYCLING HOMEWORK—a creative approach to homework in the foreign language class

How about recycling students' homework and create fun activities for your next class? Here are some ideas you can use and adapt.

Board pool of words – 5 min.

- Take the misspelled words from your students' writing homework and make flashcards with their correct spelling.
- At the beginning of the following class, put the flashcards on the board and ask students to clear the board by saying sentences containing the words on the flashcards. Encourage them to include more than one word in a sentence, if possible.

Write or wrong? 15-30 min.

- Take sentences from your students' writing homework that have errors (spelling, grammar, word order, etc) and write them down exactly as they appear in their homework.
- Mix them up with correct sentences on a sheet of paper.
- Before you hand in their homework, divide the class in two groups.
- Each group will appoint a speaker.
- Write one sentence at a time up on the board. Groups take turns to decide if the sentence on the board is right or wrong.
- The group deliberates for a short time and then their speaker says RIGHT or WRONG.
- If their choice is right, they get a point. If they can correct the sentence, they get another point.
- Once the game is over, break the mood with a relaxing activity and hand in their homework. Give students two minutes to revise their own work before turning it in for real.



Word order—15 min.

- Take corrected complex sentences from your students' grammar or writing homework and make flashcards of the words used in the sentences. Clip them together per sentences.

- *Have the class work in pairs putting together two different sentences in the correct order. Allow 5 or 6 minutes for this.*
- *Have pairs pair up with another pair (wow).*
- *Pairs take turns showing their sentences for the other two students to see if their sentences are correct.*
- *Spot a couple of “interesting sentences” and write them up on the board for discussion. (This will focus their attention back on you.)*

Tic Tac Toe – 25 min.

- *On the board, draw up the classic tic tac toe grid and fill it in with targeted vocabulary you wish your students had used in their writing homework. E.g.*

<i>Virtue</i>	<i>Claws</i>	<i>Courageous</i>
<i>Fictitious</i>	<i>Character</i>	<i>Armour</i>
<i>Fabulous</i>	<i>Peasants</i>	<i>Famed</i>

- *Divide the class in two groups.*
- *The game works just like the regular tic tac toe, but in order to win a spot, they have to come up with a correct sentence that includes the word written in the spot they want.*

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Was this article useful? Do you have any other ideas you'd like to share with us? Thanks!
