

SONG IDEAS FOR THE CLASSROOM

There is a common perception that all learning should be serious and solemn in nature, and that if one is having fun and there is hilarity and laughter, then it is not really learning. This is a misconception. It is possible to learn a language as well as enjoy oneself at the same time. One of the best ways of doing this is through singing songs.'

There are many advantages of using songs in the classroom:

1. Singing songs are a welcome break from the usual routine of the language class.
2. They are motivating and challenging.
3. Learning a language requires a great deal of effort. Singing a song can help students to make and sustain the effort of learning.
4. Songs provide language practice in the various skills- speaking, listening and reading.
5. They encourage students to interact and communicate.
6. They create a meaningful context for language use.'

1. Hokey Pokey

Type of game	Song
Description	Vocabulary and pronunciation
Necessary	Children
Number of people	As much as you like
Grade/age	Any age

Sing this song standing in a circle.

When you say a body part, you must put that body part into the circle and then take it out of the circle.

Put your (right foot) in, take your (right foot) out
 Put your (right foot) in, and you shake it all about
 You do the hokey-pokey and you turn yourself around
 That's what it's all about

Keep singing additional verses and change "right foot" to other body parts:

- left foot
- right hand
- left hand
- head
- whole self / body

2. If you are happy and you know it.....

Type of game	Song
Description	English song with action
Necessary	Children
Number of people	As much as you like
Grade/age	Any age

- Write the words of the song on the blackboard
- Sing the song with the children, so that they know the song
- Then form a circle with the students
- Sing and do the song:

SING	ACTION
If you're happy and you know it	
CLAP YOUR HANDS	Clap your hands two times with the students
If you're happy and you know it	

CLAP YOUR HANDS	Clap your hands two times with the students
If you're happy and you know it	
If you really want to show it	
CLAP YOUR HANDS!	Clap your hands two times with the students
Do this song several times.	

You can make many differentiation's with CLAP YOUR HANDS, like

- STAMP YOUR FEET
- MOVE YOUR ARMS
- SHAKE YOUR HEAD
- TURN AROUND
- JUMP JUMP JUMP!
- DANCE DANCE DANCE!
- MAKE A FUNNY SOUND
- etc. etc.

Transport

- Drive a car
- Halt a bus
- Catch a train

Fruit

- Eat a banana
- Peel an orange.
- Cut a watermelon

3. Brother John.

Type of game	<i>Song and concentration game</i>
Description	Song with action
Necessary	Children
Number of people	As much as you want
Grade/age	Any age

- Write the words of the song on the blackboard
- Sing the song with the children, so that they know the song
- Then form a circle with the students
- Sing and do the song:

Action

- The children start to sing the song. The children touch each others hands in the following way:
- The right hand is on top of the left hand of their RIGHT neighbor
- The left hand is under the right hand of their LEFT neighbor
- When they sing the song, they hit the RIGHT hand of their LEFT neighbor with their own RIGHT hand. The hand clapping will go round the circle.
- When you sing the last DONG of the song, you have to touch the hand of your neighbor, but that person will try to take his hand away.
- If the person's hand is touched he has to go inside the circle and start playing the game with the other people who get touched on DONG forming a new circle.

SING	ACTION
Are you sleeping	CLAP YOUR NEIGHBOR'S HAND
Are you sleeping	CLAP YOUR NEIGHBOR'S HAND
Brother John	CLAP YOUR NEIGHBOR'S HAND
Brother John	CLAP YOUR NEIGHBOR'S HAND
Morning bells are ringing	CLAP YOUR NEIGHBOR'S HAND
Morning bells are ringing	CLAP YOUR NEIGHBOR'S HAND
Ding ding dong	CLAP YOUR NEIGHBOR'S HAND
Ding ding dong	CLAP YOUR NEIGHBOR'S HAND

This person tries to pull back his hand at the sound of DONG

4. Head, shoulders, knees and toes

Type of game	Song
Description	Children sing the song and do action. Can be used when practicing body parts.
Necessary	Children
Number of people	As much as you want
Grade/age	Any age

- Write the words of the song on the blackboard
- Sing the song with the children, so that they know the song
- Them form a cirkel with the students
- Sing and do the song:

SING	ACTION
HEAD	Touch your head with both hands
SHOULDERS	Touch your shoulders with both hands
KNEES	Touch your knees with both hands
AND TOES	Touch your toes with both hands
KNEES AND TOES	Touch you knees and you foot with both hands
EYES	Touch your eyes with both hands
AND EARS	Touch your ears with both hands
AND MOUTH	Touch your mouth with both hands
AND NOSE	Touch your nose with both hands
HEAD	Touch your head with both hands
SHOULDERS	Touch your shoulders with both hands
KNEES	Touch your knees with both hands
AND TOES	Touch your toes with both hands
KNEES AND TOES	Touch you knees and you foot with both hands

Do this song and the movements several times, try to speed up the song, going faster and faster while singing and making the movement.

You can make many differentations on KNEES AND TOES, like

- EAR and EYE
- MOUTH and NOSE
- HAND and ARM
- BACK and FRONT
- etc. etc.

5. Old Mac Donald's

Type of game	Song
Description	Song with sounds and actions, can be used when practicing animals
Necessary	Children
Number of people	As much as you like
Grade/age	Any age

- Make a drawing on the blackboard with the students:
 - An old farmer
 - A farm
 - The animals you want to use in the song
- Write the words of the song on the blackboard
- Sing the song with the children, so that they know the song
- Practice the animals and the sounds
- Them form a cirkel with the students
- Sing and do the song:

Old Mac Donald has a farm	Hi HA HI HA HO!
And on his farm he has a <u>COW</u>	HI HA HI HA HO!
With a <u>MOOH MOOH</u> here, and a <u>MOOH MOOH</u> there	
Here a <u>MOOH</u> , there a <u>MOOH</u> , everywhere a <u>MOOH MOOH</u>	
Old MacDonald has a farm	HI HA HI HA HO!

Note:

You can change the animals and the sounds on the underscored text.

DOG WOOOF WOOOF
 CAT MIEUW MIEUW
 PIG GRUMP GRUMP
 HORSE HIHIHI HIHIHI
 CHICKEN CHICK CHICK
 Etc. etc.

Variation on the animals

Instead of animals you can use:

- A car : broom broom
- A tractor: vrrrr, vrrrr
- A combine machine: chuck, chuck

Variation on the song:

Old Mac Donald's can have a shop, a zoo, a school or anything else instead of a farm.

6. Itsy Bitsy Spider

Type of game	Song with action
Description	Practice pronunciation
Necessary	Children
Number of people	As much as you want
Grade/age	Any age

- Make a drawing on the blackboard with the students:
 - A spider
 - A spout
 - Rain
 - Sun
 - Etc.
- Write the words of the song on the blackboard
- Sing the song with the children, so that they know the song
- Practice the gestures for spider, rain, sun, etc
- Them form a circle with the students
- Sing and do the song:

SING	ACTION
Itsy bitsy spider went up the water spout	your hands 'climb' up in the air
Down came the rain and washed the spider out	make rain gestures
Out came the sun and dried up all the rain	make sun gesture
Itsy bitsy spider went up the spout again	your hand 'climb' up in the air

7. Alphabet Song combined with musical chairs

Type of game	Song with action
Description	Practice pronunciation and numbers, do action
Necessary	Children
Number of people	As much as you want
Grade/age	Up to 10

- Write down the text of the song on the blackboard
- Practice the singing first
- Arrange chairs in a circle.
- There should be one less chair than the number of students. For example, if there are 10 students, there should be 9 chairs.
- Sing the alphabet song as students walk around the chairs.
- Stop singing the song at any point.
- When you stop singing the students must race to find a seat.
- Whoever cannot find a seat must sit in the middle.

- Then take one chair away and play again.
- Continue until there are just two students left and one chair.
- Sing and do the song

THE ALPHABETSONG

A, B, C, D, E, F, G.....
 H. I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P.....
 Q and R, S, T, U V
 W, X, Y Z

8. London Bridge is falling down

Type of game	Song with action
Description	Practice pronunciation, do action
Necessary	Children, boys AND girls needed
Number of people	As much as you want
Grade/age	From kindergarten until 12 years old

- Make a drawing of a bridge
- Write down the text of the song on the blackboard
- Practice the song first
- Two teachers make a bridge with their hands.
- The students make a line, sing the song, and take turns going under the bridge.
- At the end of the song the teachers capture whichever student is standing under the bridge.
- That student then either sits out or helps to form a bridge with the teachers.

SING

London bridge is falling down, falling down, falling down
 London bridge is falling down, my fair lady

Variation:

With young children, ask them to teach you a song. Many of the children’s songs are set to popular tunes that you will know

9. This is the way

Type of game	Song with action
Description	Practice pronunciation, do action
Necessary	Children
Number of people	As much as you want
Grade/age	Small kids

- Write down the text of the song on the blackboard
- Practice the singing
- Practice the gestures
- Sing and do the song: everybody in a circle

SING

This is the way we brush our teeth (3x)
 This is the way we brush our teeth early in the morning

ACTION

Brush teeth
 Brush teeth

Variations

- You can use many other activities, for example:

Actions

- Put on our clothes
- Shine our shoes
- Check the time
- Button our shirts
- Pull on our socks (or more Thai relevant actions)

Transport

- Jump in a pick up

- Ride a bicycle
- Sit on a motorcy

Directions

- Step to the left
- Step to the right
- Jump up.
- Jump down
- etc

Animals

- Fly like a bird
- Float like a jelly fish
- Bite like a shark
- etc

Cooking

- Make the coffee
- Fry the rice
- Pound the chilies

10. Rock around the clock

Type of game	Song with action
Description	Practice pronunciation, can be used when practicing numbers or time
Necessary	Children
Number of people	As much as you want
Grade/age	Any age

- Make a drawing on the blackboard with the students:
- A clock with the numbers and hands
- Write the words of the song on the blackboard
- Sing the song with the children, so that they know the song
- Practice the gestures
- Them form a cirkel with the students
- Sing and do the song:

SING	ACTION
1 o'clock, 2 o'clock, 3 o'clock, rock	Jive dance
4 o'clock, 5 o'clock, 6 o'clock, rock	Jive dance
7 o'clock, 8 o'clock, 9 o'clock, rock	Jive dance
10 o'clock, 11 o'clock, 12 o'clock, rock	Jive dance
We're gonna rock around the clock tonight	Turn around when you sing: 'rock around'
123, 456, 789, 10 11 12	Jive dance
We're gonna rock around the clock tonight	Turn around when you sing: 'rock around'

11. Rock around the week

Type of game	Song with action
Description	Practice pronunciation, can be used when practicing days of the week
Necessary	Children
Number of people	As much as you want
Grade/age	Any age

- Make a drawing on the blackboard with the students:
- A calendar with the days of the week
- Write the words of the song on the blackboard
- Sing the song with the children, so that they know the song
- Practice the gestures
- Them form a cirkel with the students
- Sing and do the song:

SING	ACTION
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Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday	Jive dance
Thursday, Friday, Saturday	Jive dance
Funday, then Sunday	Jive dance
Rock around the week with me	Turn around when you sing: 'rock around'