

An English Day kit for Elementary Teachers

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The philosophy behind the English Day

Why have an English Day?

There are some great advantages for having an English Day:

1. First of all it's fun! It generates positive feelings and brings the subject to life.
2. It consolidates the subject, makes it real and relevant.
3. It allows the teachers to relate to multiple intelligences, skills, and talents of pupils that are usually ignored during the regular lessons like: drawing, singing, cooking, drama, etc.).
4. English Day incorporates SGA.

SGA – Students Generated Activities

The **SGA** is my version of project based learning. The idea is that students create their own activities based on the subject learnt, practicing and acquiring more knowledge about it. In comparison to the PBL, here the teacher is in control of the subject matter, level, material etc.

Example activities:

- vocabulary - card games
- grammar – language structure
- role play – ordering in a restaurant, class breakfast

These activities can be presented on the English Day.

Procedure for organizing English Day

1. Meeting with staff

Think about the aim: maybe having some fun, or just having something different?

To reinforce language structure, decide which classes will participate. Think about how complicated you want to make this. Do you want all ages to join in? This is great for unity and fun but makes it difficult to organize and to address specific age related learning needs.

Now discuss a theme around which your stations will be planned. It could be a concept the school wants to teach or emphasize. It could be connected to an upcoming holiday.

2. Plan the stations according to the number of participants, approximately one station for every 10 participants.

Stations should be varied and give opportunities for teaching English in a way that will appeal to a variety of skills so that this day can relate to various talents that usually are not brought into the classroom such as art, sport, cooking, film, etc.

Each station should have an activity that takes about 20 minutes to complete.

3. Think about who will man the stations. You will probably need help from other staff members as well.

Think about where each station will be. You will need space apart from the regular classrooms.

Discuss all the materials required. Make a list. Calculate costs. Include treats and prizes if appropriate.

4. Meet with the principal to make sure your plans are workable, that extra staff is available, that the date is ok, and that the space and budget are available.

5. Decide who will plan the individual stations. Teachers usually feel connected to a particular skill and they should volunteer to plan and man the station they connect to.

A few days before.....

6. Divide the students into groups of ten. Allocate a different color for each group.

7. Draw up a schedule. For example;

	Sports In the yard	Drama In the library	Party games In the library	Making a mural In the corridor, by the front door	Student Generated activities Mrs. Cohen's Classroom	Fun with worksheets Mrs. Levy's Classroom
8.15- 8.40						
8.45- 9.05						
9.10- 9.35						
10.15- 10.40						
10.45- 11.05						
11.05- 11.35						

Notice that each group will do each activity.

7. Make a form for each group. The form should have the list of students written on a paper with the group color and a schedule for this group. One student should be allocated as team leader; her job is to get the whole team to the next station and report to the teachers if there is any problem.

8. A copy of the schedule should be put up in a prominent place if a student is unsure where to go.

Preparation for the actual day:

9. Label each area clearly. Place signs on doors if possible (e.g.: the library - Party Games).

10. The start of the day should be spent explaining to the children what's going to happen and getting them into teams. Give each team leader the schedule. Explain any rules. For example, 'don't leave before the time is up', 'help to tidy up your activity', 'if you need to leave'....

Make it clear whether students should bring along their pencils, and also what they are going to do with papers or things they make on English Day.

11. Colored stickers should be put on each student's shirt according to her team to prevent misunderstandings.

At the end of the day time could be spent to have a meeting to summarize what happened during the day.

Other ideas..... Show the movies or plays or role play prepared.

Give prizes for the best student generated activities.

Teach songs related to the theme and have a singalong (preferably with the help of the music teacher).

Practice aerobics in English.

Learn a dance in English.

If budget allows it, run a show in English.

Examples of various stations:

A. Around Town

The school is being transformed into a small town with various shops and places.

Station no. 1 – Practice vocabulary

Place: The sports yard

Game: a running dictation. The pupils stand in a row as a group, one student runs to the entrance of the yard, she gets a word, she needs to memorize and translate it, run back to her group and try to spell it together. If her answer is right the next pupil gets the second word; if not she needs to try again.

Station no. 2 – A photo shop

Place: indoors

Activity: The students make their own family album by sticking a picture and describing the family member. For higher levels, the students can write about the place and circumstances in which the picture was taken.

Station no. 3 – Zumba/Dancing

Place: outdoors/gym

Activity: Dancing and practicing by reviewing vocabulary such as instructions and body parts. You will need the help of the sports teacher.

Station no. 4 – A wedding scene

Place: a classroom

Activity: the classroom should be arranged as a wedding hall. The place should be filled with clues, items, objects such as a clock on the wall, clothes, signs, a bag, pictures, a box, flowers, tables, chairs, tablecloths, paper plates, knives, forks, cups, napkins, bottles.

The students enter the room. They have 2 minutes to memorize what they have seen, then they go out and need to fill in a report or some task, for example:

True or false

1. The bridesmaids are weaing pink dresses.
2. The bag is red.
3. The jacket is on the floor.
4. There is a chocolate cake near the window.
5. The plates are gold and white.
6. There are five tables.
7. There are flowers on every table.

Wh questions

1. Where is the bride?
2. Who is standing next to the cake?

The students get one more round and then check the answers.

❖ There are more ideas for a scene room:

- A children's bedroom
- A kitchen
- A zoo
- A shopping center

Station no. 5 – Worksheets, puzzles and bingo games– the students get a plastic bag with fun worksheets and puzzles. They sit in groups and fill them in together.

Station no. 6 - Arts and crafts – depends on the theme, however, students can make puppets and write a dialogue together and then act it out in class.

Another idea is comics – the students get pictures of characters and bubbles. They cut them out and make a comic collage. The students use the grammar that has been taught in class. For example – wh questions:

What is your favorite food\color\hobby. and so on.

How old are you?

Where do you live?

Station no. 7 – A video room

There are costumes all over the classroom. The students get dressed and act out according to the text they got. The text could also be a story in the textbook that the students have already learnt. The students are filmed and at the end of the day the students watch each other. They practice oral skills by describing a character, using the patterns:

I am a boy\girl, I like____ I have_____ I live in_____

And wh questions...

B. Other themes which can be used in an English day are:

A. Friendship

B. Save the environment

C. Animals

D. Food – restaurants, making menus.