



# PLAYWAY IN TEACHING ENGLISH

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## INTRODUCTION

English is generally considered to be a difficult subject. But actually it is not so. Its teaching in the right way can certainly make it easy, interesting and fruitful. In fact, it depends upon the teacher and his way of teaching the subject. An expert teacher of the subject is expected to deal with the students as if a doctor were to deal with the patients. He is expected to be active, patient, calm and hard working.

Let us, therefore, teach English in the way the learners feel attracted to it and not in the way they may abhor its study. That is possible if the teachers have creative minds and they spend a good deal of time in planning and preparation for the class. There should be some activity in teaching which will bring in enjoyment. That way it is bound to make the teaching work delightful and interesting.

Language teaching is fruitful only if the approach to it is socialised. It should involve activity both on the part of the students and the teachers. All such techniques as make the teaching process playful, add activity to it, socialise the whole process, should be used.

The idea of play-way in education was expounded and developed by Caldwell Cook in the last nineteenth century. The point is that children learn best when they are motivated by interest and the spirit of play. In this way learning is made effective by this method. The principle of play way in education has been successfully used in Kindergarten and Montessori schools.

### HOW CAN PLAYWAY WORK IN TEACHING ENGLISH ?

(a) Drills of different types should be used in the class room. It will involve activity on the part of the teachers and the students. For different types of drills "chapter on grammar" may please be consulted.



(b) As far as possible, situations should be created and then any thing should be taught to the students. It will bring language items and real life closer to each other. For this, the portion dealing with 'Situational Teaching' contained in the chapter on 'Structural Approach' may be consulted.

(c) Debates, Declamation contests, Poem Recitation contests etc. may be held in the academic session. A student with distinction in these items should be given due recognition. Holding such functions should be made a common feature in the education institutions.

(d) A few interesting games may be used for teaching English in the class rooms. It is bound to captivate the young learners for the study of English. Hereunder are given some useful games :

(i) The class may be taught the recognition of letters of words. Then a competition may be held between the two groups of the class. Some flash cards (say of 20 words) may be placed on the table. On the black-board, two columns may be drawn. In each column, some words say 4, out of the list of words taught to the students may be written. One column is meant for each group.

Now the teacher calls one student from each group. They will look at the flash cards, consult the first word written in the column meant for their group and take flash cards. In this way, different students of each group will come and take away the flash cards. The group that goes to seats first with correct flash cards in their hands will be the winner.

(ii) Some objects may be placed on the ground. A few flash cards on which names of those objects are written, may also be placed there. The students may be asked to stand in two rows, one on the left and another on the right. Let us say there are ten students in each group. They may be named as 1, 2, 3.....upto 10. The teacher may speak say 5. The students who are named as 5 in each group will come forward. They may be asked to place one object each on the flash card bearing the name of that object. In this way, competition may be held between the two groups.

(iii) The class may be asked to learn spellings of the words given in a page or a lesson in the book. Then their knowledge of spellings may be tested with the help of the following game :—

About a dozen words out of the subject matter learnt by the students may be written on the blackboard. Some of them may be with correct



spellings and some with wrong spellings. The students may be called on the black-board one by one and asked to encircle the correctly spelled words with a coloured chalk.

(iv) The class may be divided into two groups and each may be given some name. One student of a group will speak a word and its spellings. Then a student from the other group will speak a word starting with the last letter of the word spoken by the first group. In this way, the game goes on. It can also be played without telling the spellings.

This game can be used for expanding the vocabulary of the students. It can also help them to learn the spellings of words.

(v) The teacher may speak or write any letter say 'k' on the black board. The class may be given a few minutes and they are asked to write words starting with that letter. Then the students are asked to speak out their words one by one. The students with maximum words may be given a prize. This game will help the class to add up to their vocabulary.

(vi) Alphabets may be cut out of chart paper. They may be coloured so as to form beautiful flash cards. Sand or flannel may be fixed on their back. The teacher may write a few words on the black-board and give the students practice of their spellings. Then the teacher may speak a word and the students may be asked to display the flash cards so as to form the word. Thus if a student commits a mistake somewhere, other students may be asked to correct it.

(vii) A substitution table may be prepared on a chart. The students may be asked to speak one sentence or two sentences each by consulting it. After oral practice they may be asked to write all the sentences in their note-books, e.g.

I	bought	a	book
We		table	
You		radio	
He		house	
She		basket	
Veena			
The girls			
The boys			

## ADVANTAGES OF PLAY-WAY

1. It provides activity centred teaching. The learners feel interested and they are able to learn things which are retained in the minds for a long time.
2. It provides entertainment to the students. They learn things and at the same time they are able to amuse themselves.
3. A number of instincts of the children like self assertion, self submission, laughing etc. are satisfied.
4. The subject matter taught is brought nearer to reality and linked with the real life of the child.
5. It is perhaps the most active way of learning and acquiring some knowledge.
6. By this method, the children work whole-heartedly. They are also able to acquire many social and moral values.
7. The learners develop fellow-feelings and goodwill for the class fellows.

## LIST OF QUESTIONS

### Section A (Essay Type Questions)

1. As a teacher of English, how will you make the class room teaching more effective? Explain by giving examples.
2. Suggest five games which can be successfully used in a class that is beginning to learn English.

### Section B (Short Answer Type Questions)

3. Write short notes on :
    - (i) Advantages of Play-way in teaching English.
    - (ii) Importance of activity centred teaching.
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*Thank*

*You...*

*Now...*

*Thanks*