

USING ENGLISH IN THE CLASSROOM

Extract from Gateway 2nd edition by Dave Spencer

At the beginning of the school year, students may be shy about using English. Be a good model for your students by making simple and natural comments in English, e.g. Really? That's a good idea, Sylvie. What do you think, Jacob?

Use a small range of comments and use them consistently. At first, you can use gestures alongside the comments (e.g. thumbs up when you are saying something positive) to reinforce the idea of what you are saying. In time, students will start to imitate you and you can establish an English-only environment.

It is also useful to teach expressions that students can use for pair and groupwork. Put these expressions on posters around the classroom, or have them saved on a file that you can bring up on the IWB at relevant times and refer to them to remind students to always use English.

Pairwork: Do you have a partner yet? Let's work together for this activity. Are you ready? I'll start. I'll be A and you be B.
Groupwork: We need one more person in our group. Can I join your group? Who wants to go first?

Comparing answers: What did you get for number 1? I got ... for number 1. How about you? I have the same/a different answer. I didn't get that one.

Finally, teach a few expressions that students can use to ask for meaning, pronunciation, spelling, repetition or clarification: Could you say that again, please? Can you speak more slowly, please? How do you say ... in English/Japanese? How do you pronounce/say this word? What does ... mean? How do you spell ...?