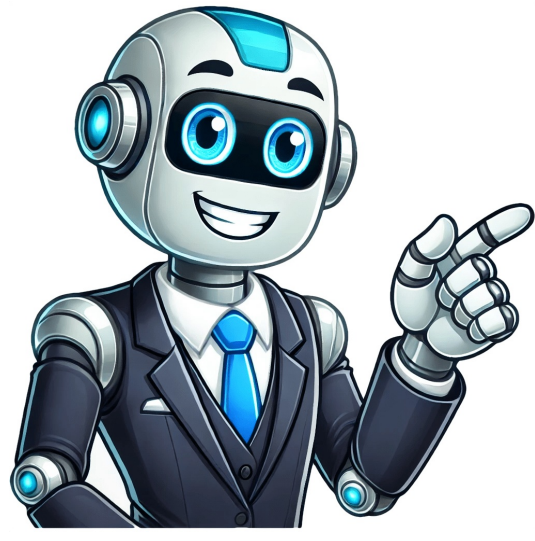


I'm human



Welcome to our English Language teaching resource website, where educators share materials like worksheets, lesson plans, and activities. Our collection draws from many teachers worldwide. To access these resources, you must also submit your own share-worthy ideas. Did you know that every year, we experience a phenomenon called "Carnival Fever"? It's characterized by vibrant hair, an abundance of glitter on the skin, and an intense desire to move to catchy tunes like Chayanne's *Madre Tierra*. To get in the spirit, I recommend listening to this song while reading this post. As an English teacher abroad, you'll discover numerous opportunities to share your language, culture, traditions, and celebrations with students. However, to keep them fully engaged, try incorporating their cultural practices into the classroom. This approach not only fosters a deeper understanding of local customs but also allows you to learn more about your students' backgrounds. If you're interested in learning more about how Carnival is celebrated across Spain, particularly in the Canary Islands, check out my previous posts from Las Palmas de Gran Canaria and Santa Cruz de Tenerife. Now, let's dive into 10 Carnival Activities and Lesson Plans for English Language students! Here's a fun activity to get you started: ****Guess the Costume**** Best suited for: Beginner-Intermediate level (4th-6th primary or 1st-year secondary) Materials needed: * Old costumes (tutus, leotards, wings, masks, wigs, etc.) * Realia or pictures of Carnival costumes * Categories like "Most likely costumes for this year's theme," "Most original or creative costume you saw last year," and "Costume props & accessories" Instructions: 1. Review and introduce some basic Carnival vocabulary. 2. Have students imagine a Carnival costume and write down the components they need to put it together. They can work solo or with a partner. 3. Class Activity: Students describe their costume ideas, and the rest of the class has to guess what it is. Grammar & Vocabulary Focus: * Vocabulary related to costumes, wearing, and "dressing up" * Prepositions of where costume items are worn (on your head, over your face, in your hand) * Question structure: Is it an XYZ? Carnaval Costumes Activity for Beginner-Intermediate Learners (4th - 6th primary, 1st - 3rd ESO): Use old costumes as realia! Students imagine a costume and classmates ask YES/NO questions to figure out what it is. Introduce Carnival vocab through brainstorming or Scatategories. Instructions: 1. Give students 2-5 minutes to write down 3-5 creative Carnival costume ideas. 2. Class Activity: Students whisper their costume idea to the teacher, and classmates ask YES/NO questions to guess what it is. Grammar Focus: * Practice making questions (Do you...? Are there...? Is it...?) * Practice short answers (Yes, it is; No, you don't; etc.) DIY Rosco Activity for Intermediate-Advanced Learners (2nd ESO - 2nd Bach): 1. Introduce Carnival traditions and costume components through Scatategories. 2. Divide alphabet into groups or pairs and assign letters to create their own Rosco. 3. Give time to come up with words and define them, encouraging thinking about Carnival traditions, costumes, instruments, and famous places that celebrate it. Play the game: Let higher-level learners read out definitions while others guess, or have everyone call out answers for a small class. For larger classes, play in teams and nominate a few players. 1. Answering Questions Grammar & Vocab Focus Vocabulary related to Carnival costumes and traditions Practice using relative clauses (who, that, which, whose, where, when) **** Bonus!** Once you've got a pretty solid list of words from your higher level classes, you can use them to play ROSCO or Password with your lower levels! 4. Carnaval Picture Descriptions Works best with: Low Intermediate (5th primary - 2nd ESO) You need: A variety of Carnival images (in color) and preferably laminated. Carnival traditions may vary from one region to the other, but I always include pictures of these events and traditions (you can easily find them from a google search): Intro Project a Halloween picture with a variety of costumes. Have students describe what they see, using both costume vocabulary and picture description vocabulary. Remind them to use: There is/there are; I can see Prepositions of place (In the background/At the front/To the left) Present continuous (She is wearing/He is holding) Conjecture (I think it's Halloween because XYZ; I think they're having fun because XYZ) Groups or Pairs Give each group or pair (depending on class size) a picture related to Carnival and tell them they have 8 - 10 minutes to prepare a 5 minute presentation describing the picture and explaining the event or tradition to someone who knows nothing about Carnival. IE, if it's a picture of a murga, they should first describe what they see and second explain what a murga is, the history, an anecdote, etc. Class Activity Once they've had time to get their ideas together, each pair or group must come to the front of the classroom and talk about their picture for 3 - 5 minutes. Grammar & Vocab Focus The main focus here is practicing picture descriptions, as per the ever looming Cambridge exams: There is/there are Prepositions of place Present continuous Conjecture (I think ABC because XYZ) Expressing opinions and personal relevance 5. Carnaval Picture Descriptions Works best with: Intermediate (2nd - 4th ESO, Bach) You need: A variety of Carnival images (in color) and preferably laminated. Have students describe what they see in pictures, using special vocabulary. They should compare and contrast the images, reminding them to use certain words like "in the background" or "she is wearing". Pair students up and give each pair a set of pictures to work with. After some time, have each group present their findings to the class. Emphasize the importance of using correct grammar and vocabulary while doing this activity. Another fun activity involves describing a picture out loud, and having others draw what they hear. This can be done in groups or as a class, and can help students practice their listening skills. Finally, use real-life examples from your home country to teach students about modal verbs, which express ability, permission, or obligation. This is especially useful for intermediate-level students. As I was teaching my students about modal verbs last year in February, I found myself thinking about an activity that had been a huge hit with both me and my students. It involved creating classroom rules posters as a group project over the course of 2-3 class periods. The idea can be easily adapted into a simple class activity without the need for a poster or artwork, although it's certainly more enjoyable with those elements included. To start off the activity, I introduced the concept by presenting "Dos & Don'ts of Fourth of July," highlighting examples like "You should wear red, white & blue to represent the flag" and "You must drink lots of water because it's very hot in July." Then, students worked in groups to come up with their own "Dos & Don'ts of Carnival" for someone who has never attended a Carnival celebration. After sharing their ideas, they could begin working on their posters. Once the posters were complete, each group presented their Dos & Don'ts to the class. This activity focuses on modal verbs like should(n't), must(n't), and (don't) have to. It's most effective for intermediate students (1st-4th year ESO). This activity works best with: Intermediate (1st - 4th ESO) You need: Pictures of the current and previous years' Carnival poster representing the annual theme. Intro Project a Carnival poster from another city and ask them what they think the theme is and to predict some of the most popular costumes based on the theme. Pair Work Project the previous years' poster. Give them about 5 minutes to discuss last years' theme and most popular costumes using the past tense. Each partner should talk about 3 popular costumes they saw. Discuss as a class. Encourage students to pay attention to their partner's outfit. Ask them to describe it using adjectives and funny phrases (say something like "you look absolutely stunning"). In-class activity: have volunteers model clothes, while the other student gives a play-by-play description of what they're wearing. If allowed by school rules, record these sessions - it's fun to watch them later! This lesson is perfect for students learning English at an intermediate level (around 5th grade to early high school). You'll need a PowerPoint presentation with some fun images to get started. To begin, play a game that gets everyone thinking about Carnival vocabulary. I like to use Scatategories as a warm-up activity. Next, show the class several Carnival-related pictures and gradually zoom in on them five times each. See which group can guess what's being shown first - they'll earn points for their correct answers. Points are awarded based on how clear the image is: 5 points if it's very zoomed in, down to 1 point for a regular-sized photo. There are plenty of other ways to celebrate Carnival - Pictionary, charades, and taboo are all great options. If you've got any clever ideas or want more ESL lesson plans, feel free to leave a comment! You can also check out some other fun activities for January and February on this blog.

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