

UNIT 2 LEARNING AND TEACHING MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE SKILLS

A) 2.5.3 PRODUCTION STAGE

In this stage speaking activities are aimed at developing a more independent, personal production. As the communicative ability is the main goal in this stage the activities should be carried out in pairs or in groups.

Sample production activities

- Interviews/Role plays
- Oral reports/presentation (also with the help of multimedia)
- Oral summary

PRACTICAL EXAMPLES

1. GEOGRAPHY: THE USA

Divide the class into groups of six students and give each group a reading text about the following topics concerning the USA:

- ✓ *History*
- ✓ *Government*
- ✓ *Geography*
- ✓ *Climate*
- ✓ *Economy*
- ✓ *Demographics*

Provide each group a table to fill in like the one below (one for each topic):

<i>GOVERNMENT</i>	
<i>Constitution adopted in.....</i>	
<i>Three branches of government.....</i>	
<i>The President.....</i>	
<i>Congress.....</i>	
<i>Supreme Court.....</i>	
<i>Elections.....</i>	
<i>Main political parties.....</i>	

Ask each group to prepare an oral report using the information in the table. Be sure *that every student in the group will practise in reporting orally to the others.*

When they have finished reshuffle groups. The new groups have to be arranged putting together one student from each of the previous groups. To do this assign each of them a number (from 1 to 6) or a letter (from A to F) and then you put all the 1 together, all the 2 together and so on. Once you have formed the new groups ask them to report in the group about their own topic.

The same kind of activity can be done as a project work. You divide the class in groups as described above and you ask each group to find more information about each of the topic assigned to them. They can use Internet or any other source. Ask them to prepare on oral presentation to the class using visual material (ex. Power Point presentation, posters, slides etc.)

2. SOCIAL STUDIES: TOURISM

In this example we will consider the situation of hotel check-in and check-out. Ask students to work in pairs and to play the conversation which will happen between a guest and a hotel receptionist.

Provide the students the following guidelines and ask them to play the conversation taking alternatively either the role of the receptionist or the role of the guest:

CHECK - IN STEPS	CHECK-OUT STEPS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome guests • Check reservation • Check departure date • Ask to fill in and sign registration form • Ask for identity document/passport • Check method of payment • Hand key or keycard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask room number • Ask for the key or keycard • Check out charges and close bill • Show the bill to the guest and be ready to explain the items of the bill. • Hand back identity document/passport • Ask if the stay was pleasant • Ask if a taxi is needed • Wish a good journey