

YOUNG LEARNERS WORKSHOP

This workshop will mainly focus on the speaking parts of the three YLE tests, STARTERS, MOVERS and FLYERS, although there will also be some tips for the listening, reading and writing parts.

1) AVOID USING THE WORD EXAM

Difference between tests and exams: For different reasons children tend to find the word exam much more serious than test although definitions are equally off-putting:

<http://www.wordreference.com/definition/examination>

<http://www.wordreference.com/definition/TEST>

In fact, Cambridge does not call them exams:

<http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams-and-qualifications/young-learners/starters/>

2) GET THEM STARTED!

STARTERS: Identifying, naming, pointing, understanding

For the *Starters Test* children are not yet asked to produce that much language. The TEST involves understanding more than producing. However, getting them started to produce language the way they need it for further tests is crucial at this age/stage (a typical candidate for the *Starters Test* would be aged between 7 and 11)

EXAMPLE: Monkey

What's this? It's a monkey but not a monkey

Is he happy? Yes, he is but not yes

Does he like bananas? Yes, he does.

3) GET THEM MOVING!

MOVERS: Identifying, naming, understanding, describing

For the *Movers Test* children will be asked to demonstrate their ability to describe pictures and objects, so production gets a much more important part. Using their senses will help them to consolidate the language.

4) GET THEM FLYING! USE YOUR AND THEIR IMAGINATION!

For the *Flyers Test* children will be asked to demonstrate their ability to describe pictures and objects but also to narrate and retell stories. Their imagination can help them to fulfil this task easily.

5) USE THEIR CREATIVITY!

Flashcards and other objects are very useful tools in the classroom. Children are very creative and love being the author, painter, sculptor, etc. of the class.

Ask the children to create their own material.

Starters Speaking Part 1: Scene Picture Instructions: Here is the slide, where is the swing?

Starters Speaking Part 2: Object card instructions: Put this on that, etc.

Starters Speaking Part 4: Object cards questions: What's this? It's a... [Don't let them say just the word- children extract grammar from sentences] Do you like...? What's your favourite...?

This type of pictures can also be used for practicing Listening Parts 1 and 5 of all three tests. Finger paints, play dough, etc.

6) USE THEIR SENSES!

From the age of 3, to the age of 12, the development of senses is at its maximum rate.

From a very young age children are ready and willing to discover the world through tasting, smelling, hearing, touching, and seeing.

Guessing games: Flyers Part 3

Cover the eyes with a piece of fabric, a scarf or similar and give them an object

7) USE THEIR CURIOSITY!

Stories without end: Movers and Flyers Speaking Part 3; Flyers R&W Part 5;

FIND THE DIFFERENCES (different possibilities): Movers and Flyers Speaking Part 1

8) USE THEIR BODIES!

Miming games and charades

Movers and Flyers Speaking Part 3

9) USE THE REAL WORLD!

Use real objects/stuff in the classroom.

Objects description: Movers Speaking Part 3; Flyers R&W Part 1; Flyers Speaking Part 2

10) USE TECHNOLOGY!

Children love technology. It is their "thing". Digital boards, tablets, video games, etc.

There are a number of websites that include games for children particularly for YLE tests.

www.lenguasvivasexams.com

<http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/prepare-and-practise/games-social/>