

A list of **engaging and motivating ESL techniques** that work well for whole-class, pair work, or group work across different levels (A1-C1). These activities **boost interaction, fluency, and confidence** while making learning fun!

---

### 1. Running Dictation (Whole class, Pair work)

**How to do it:**

- Place a short text on the wall or different parts of the classroom.
- One student (the "runner") goes to read a part of the text, memorizes as much as possible, then returns to their partner (the "writer") and dictates what they remember.
- They repeat until they have the full text.
- The fastest team with the most accurate text wins!

**Why it works:** Encourages **movement, teamwork, memory skills, and pronunciation practice**.

---

### 2. Find Someone Who... (Whole class)

**How to do it:**

- Give students a worksheet with statements like "Find someone who has travelled to another country."
- Students must walk around, ask questions, and write down names.
- Follow up with class discussion or reporting.

**Why it works:** Encourages **speaking, listening, and social interaction**. Great icebreaker!

---

### 3. Vocabulary Relay Race (Whole class, Group work)

**How to do it:**

- Divide the class into teams and line them up.
- Write a category on the board (e.g., "Things in a kitchen").
- The first student in each line runs to the board and writes a word, then runs back to tag the next person.
- The team with the most correct words wins.

**Why it works:** **Fast-paced, fun, reinforces vocabulary recall**.

---

#### 4. Back-to-the-Board (Whole class, Group work)

##### How to do it:

- One student sits with their back to the board.
- The teacher writes a word/phrase on the board.
- The rest of the group describes the word without using it.
- The seated student guesses the word.

**Why it works:** Develops paraphrasing, listening, and speaking skills.

---

#### 5. Mystery Object (Pair or Small Group)

##### How to do it:

- Put different objects in a bag.
- One student describes an object without naming it while others guess.
- For advanced levels, use abstract concepts or historical figures.

**Why it works:** Improves description skills and vocabulary.

---

#### 6. Find Your Match (Whole class)

##### How to do it:


- Prepare slips of paper with **matching pairs** (e.g., question & answer, synonyms, collocations).
- Each student gets a slip and must walk around the class to find their match.
- Once they find their match, they sit together and complete a related task.

**Why it works:** Great for reviewing vocabulary, grammar, or collocations.

---

#### 7. 1-Minute Story Challenge (Pair or Group work)

##### How to do it:

- Give each group a topic.
  - They have **1 minute** to create and tell a short story.
- 
- A decorative wave graphic in shades of blue and teal is located in the bottom right corner of the page.

- The next group must continue the story.  
**Why it works: Encourages creativity, fluency, and quick thinking.**
- 

## 8. Sentence Building Race (Whole class, Group work)

### How to do it:

- Write individual words on separate slips of paper.
  - Teams must race to arrange the words into a correct sentence.
  - You can make it harder by using **different tenses or complex sentences.**  
**Why it works: Reinforces syntax, grammar, and teamwork.**
- 

## 9. Hot Seat (Whole class, Group work)

### How to do it:

- One student sits in the “hot seat” facing the class with their back to the board.
  - The teacher writes a word on the board.
  - Their team describes the word without saying it, and the seated student must guess.  
**Why it works: Develops speaking, listening, and vocabulary skills.**
- 

## 10. Board Race (Whole class, Teamwork)

### How to do it:

- Divide the class into two teams.
  - Write a category on the board (e.g., "Adjectives for personality").
  - One student from each team runs to the board and writes a word.
  - Continue until one team wins.  
**Why it works: Great for competitive learners and vocabulary recall.**
- 

## 11. Picture Dictation (Pair work)

### How to do it:

- One student describes a picture while their partner draws it.

- The drawer cannot see the picture.
  - Compare drawings at the end!  
**Why it works: Improves listening skills and descriptive language.**
- 

## 12. Story Cubes / Roll-a-Story (Small groups)

How to do it:

- Use **story dice** or a spinner with prompts (characters, places, objects).
  - Students roll the dice and create a **story using the given elements**.
  - For C1, add a **plot twist challenge**.  
**Why it works: Boosts creativity, fluency, and storytelling skills.**
- 

## 13. Mingling Conversations (Speed Chatting) (Whole class)

How to do it:

- Students stand in two lines facing each other.
  - Give a discussion question.
  - They talk for **2 minutes**, then one line moves to the right to get a new partner.
  - Repeat with different questions.  
**Why it works: Practices conversation skills and keeps energy high!**
- 

## 14. Telephone Whisper Challenge (Whole class, Group work)

How to do it:

- Whisper a sentence to the first student in a line.
  - They whisper it to the next person, and so on.
  - The last person says it aloud. **How different is it from the original?**  
**Why it works: Practices pronunciation and listening in a hilarious way!**
- 

## 15. Alibi Game (B1-C1, Whole class, Group work)

How to do it:

- Tell the class a **crime** has been committed.
  - Divide students into “suspects” and “police.”
  - Suspects prepare **alibis** in pairs.
  - Police interrogate them separately to see if their alibis match.
- Why it works: Improves speaking, questioning, and logical thinking.**
-