

CREATING A COMMUNICATIVE CLASSROOM

Communicative language teaching makes use of real-life situations that necessitate communication. The teacher sets up situations that students are likely to encounter in real life. Unlike other methods of language teaching, which rely on repetition and drills, the Communicative Approach focuses more on spontaneous activities and practice, which provides varied outcomes depending on student reactions and responses. The real-life simulations differ from day to day so that students' motivation to learn comes from their desire to communicate in meaningful ways about significant topics. This method is focused upon students being able to communicate in a conscious way, taking into account real experiences.

The Communicative Style gets the teacher out of the forefront and has the students doing the real nitty-gritty work. You explain the grammar. You guide the students in understanding and then you come up with the ideas of how they have fun practicing it. The students should get plenty of floor time and should be the ones speaking most of the time. There are lots of websites out there to give you ideas about games you can play, activities you can incorporate, ways to break up lessons into activities. Think about *simulating real life*. Have the students do role plays that are guided but *unscripted*. Give them puzzles that take language and communication to work out. Incorporate competition and team oriented games as well as group and pair work. Combine students in different ways and provide variety through activities. Try new things and don't be afraid to take some risks in generating original and entertaining ways to bring language to life.

You will find that it opens up a whole new world in which you have a lot more freedom and creativity. It will benefit your students by giving them a safe venue in which to experiment and learn more in a shorter period of time.