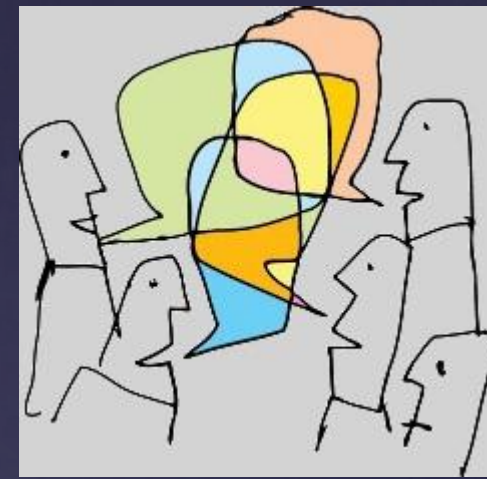


# Making pairs and groups. Keeping pair work and group work interesting



# Communicative language teaching



Communicative language teaching (CLT), or the **communicative approach**, is an approach to language teaching that emphasizes interaction as both the means and the ultimate goal of study.

# Communicative Approach

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- Interaction is the means and the goal
- Learning is task-based
- Meaning/understanding the message is more important than exact grammar
- Authentic materials are used
- Many answers are possible
- Mistakes are a part of learning



# Classroom activities



- Role-play
- Interviews
- Drama
- Information gap
- Games
- Surveys
- Learning by teaching



□ Learning by teaching

# Group work / pair work



A generic term covering a multiplicity of techniques in which 2 or more students are assigned a task that involves cooperation and self-initiated language

# Group work vs. pair work



- Pair work – more appropriate for task that are short, linguistically simple and quite controlled in terms of the structure of the task.
- Small group – groups of six or fewer
- Large group



# The advantages of pair work and small group work



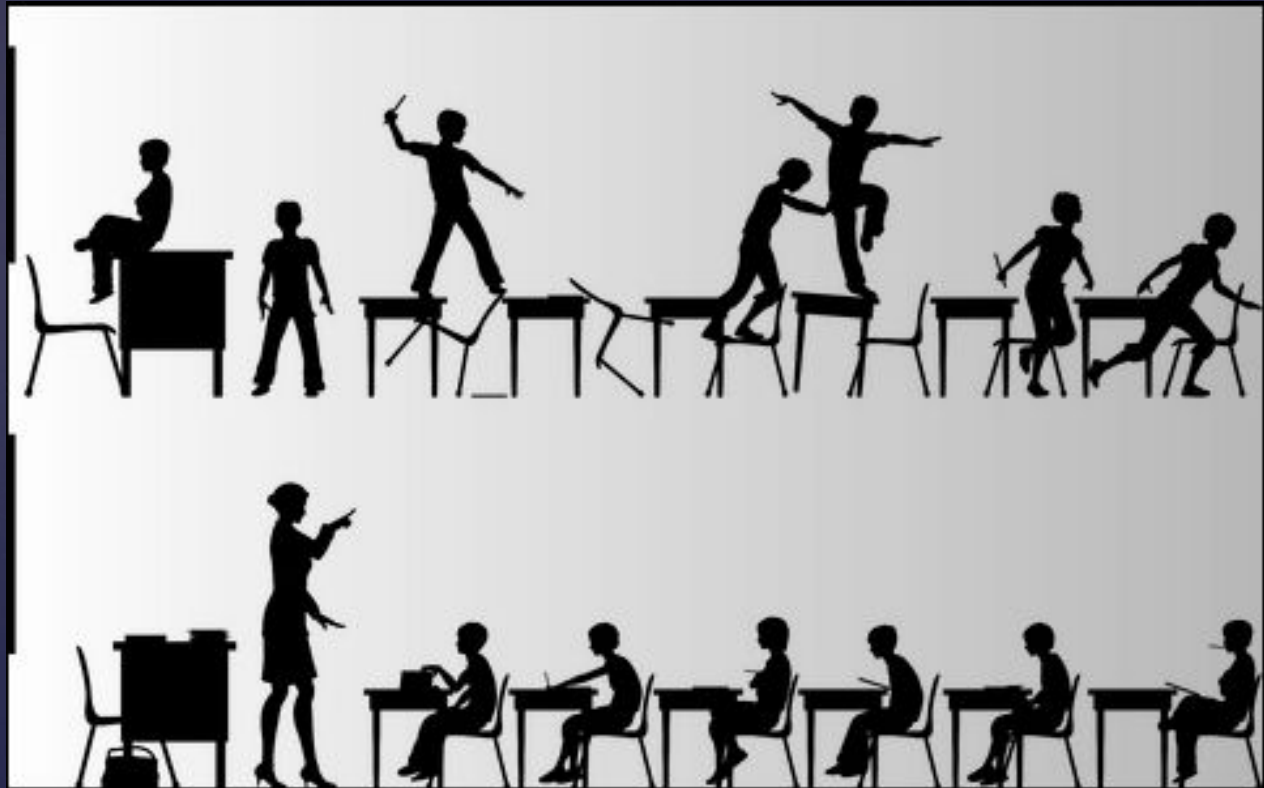
- Gives learners more speaking time
- Changes the pace of the lesson
- Takes the spotlight off you and puts it onto the children
- Allows them to mix with everyone in the group
- Gives them a sense of achievement when reaching a team goal
- Teaches them how to lead and be led by someone other than the teacher
- It allows you to monitor, move around the class and really listen to the language they are producing

Pair work/group work  
myths (*and how to  
fight them so to make  
classroom work  
effective and  
interesting*)





# 1. The teacher is no longer in control of the class





**G**ive thoughtful feedback



**R**espect others & their thoughts



**O**n task all the time



**U**se soft voices



**P**articipate actively



**S**tay with your group

# Group Roles

## Speaker

- Presents for the group and is the only one who can ask the teacher a question.

## Leader

- Makes sure everyone is on task and encourages all to do their best

## Recorder

- Does all of the writing for the group and helps clean up supplies

## Material Manager

- In charge of getting and returning all supplies the group needs.

## Time Keeper

- Encourage the group to stay on task and keeps track of how much time the group has left to work

## Helper

- Helps clean up and fills in any job that is vacant due to absence.

2. Students  
will use their  
native  
language



3. Students' errors will be reinforced in small groups



4. The classroom will get very noisy.

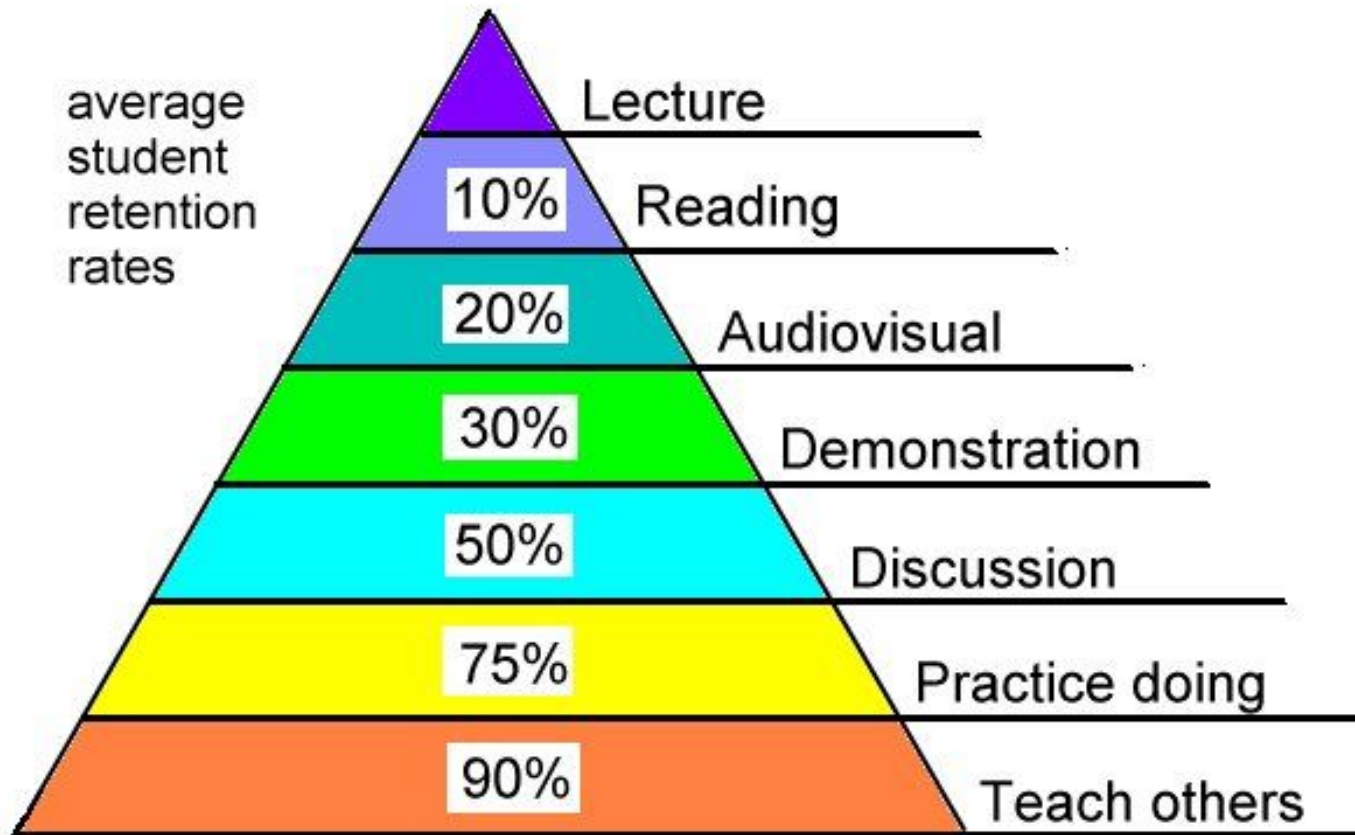


# Pairing/Grouping Students



- Be sure to fully explain the procedure before splitting the class up.
- Have fill in activities ready for the quick finishers – but be sure that they have completed the task correctly first and haven't just finished early because they misunderstood what they had to do.
- Don't forget to have feedback time after pair work so that the children don't feel that they have been wasting time. It's important to share their work as a whole group although this doesn't have to be systematic.
- Set a clear time limit.
- Control who works with who so children aren't always being dominated or dominating others.

# Learning Pyramid



Source: National Training Laboratories, Bethel, Maine





**THANK YOU**  
for your  
**ATTENTION!**