

GenkiEnglish in Germany 2006!

This was my first workshop in Germany and I must say you were indeed all very genki! Thanks for a great day!

First of all, the 2 Rules of Genki English:

Think "I can do it!" and you can!
"Losing" just means "Try Again"!

Then in the morning we went through...

TPR Warm Up Game!

At the beginning you simply shout out commands at the kids. First of all simple things like "Stand Up" or "Sit Down" are OK, along with "Good Morning". Also, try tricking them by saying "STAND UP" when they are already standing!



As you meet the kids more you can add words such as JUMP, SPIN (a big favourite), EAT, DRINK, CHEER, CLAP,

Later BOY, GIRL can be added (much laughter when boys stand up when you say "GIRLS STAND UP"). Also BIG, SMALL e.g. BIG JUMP, LITTLE JUMP and QUIET, LOUD e.g. QUIET CLAP, LOUD CHEER.

Even 1st Years can get quite advanced with things such as "GIRLS, 5 BIG SPIN JUMPS"



Or try using "PLAY" e.g. "Play Piano, Play Tennis" or things like "Watch TV"

For "Clap" or "Cheer" get them to vary the volume as you raise or lower your arm - it's a great "volume control" for the moments when you do want them to be quiet!!!

If you want some more words, try "cry" or even "zip it!"

Once you get past these basics, try some other topics from the songs, and then start using series of phrases that the kids can use. You don't just have to stick to commands!

Then try the past or future tenses, i.e. basically do the same thing but point to a calendar on the wall first.

Then you can start moving on to stories. A good way to do this is to get your kids to think of stories in groups in their native language, translate them and use them in the next class! For the stories, things like Spiderman, Harry Potter or famous characters are best!

Also try things like...

Open your eyes

Wake up!

Stretch your arms

Yawn

Get out of bed

Have a shower

Have breakfast etc.

What's your name? (from CD1)

Kids form into groups of 2. Everyone sings "What's your name?" etc. Then one child from each pair sings "My name is ..." plus their own name (please don't become Richard or Mr Monkey!). The other child then sings "My name is". The 2 children shake each other's hand whilst saying "Nice to meet you!". They then split up and each finds another partner! Repeat 3 times!

How are you? (from CD1)

It is best to have gestures for each answer. For example rubbing your tummy for "hungry", pretending to sleep for "tired", hugging yourself for "cold", pulling a sad face for "sad", smiling for "happy", jumping in the air for "great!", a thumbs up for "Good!" and an OK sign for "OK"! A good way to get even shy kids motivated is to have a competition between the teacher as to who sings the loudest! The teacher loudly sings each word (e.g. "I'm hungry"), then the kids repeat the word along with the "echo" on the CD!

I like everything! Game

This is a REALLY cool game for quickly practicing vocab or conversation!

1. Teach "How are you?" and four answers.
2. Tell the kids to stand up



3. Get out a stop watch and as you say "Go!" start the watch.

4. The kids pair up and do the conversation.
5. They change partners and repeat the conversation, preferably with a different answer.
6. They find another partner and do it again.
7. Repeat again, and again until they have done it 4 times.
8. They sit down
9. When the last child sits down, the teacher stops the stopwatch!

You can teach 4 or 5 words of vocab, do the game, teach another 4 or 5 words and do the game again. The kids love to see if they can beat their best time (it doesn't work without the stop watch!).

"How are you?" Monster Game

This is a variation of the traditional "[What time is it, Mr Wolf?](#)" game. This time it's used for practising "[How are you?](#)". It's also one of my favourite games at the moment! So have a run through the [song](#), then once the kids have got a grasp of the words, let's try the game....



1. The kids all line up at one end side of the gym.
2. Explain that this side of the gym is the "safe" side. But the kids really want to get across to the other side, where there is a sweet shop which today has a half price special offer (this gets the kids very excited!).
3. But, in between the kids and the sweet shop is a monster! At first the teacher is the monster. Ask the

kids to guess what your favourite food is. They'll shout out some foods (nice practice!), then you say that your favourite food is human! (Even bigger reaction from the kids!)

4. Tell them that they can only cross to the sweet shop if the monster is in a good mood and isn't hungry. Ask them how they can check on the mood of the monster. After a moment a few kids will say "Ask him/her "How are you?""

5. All together the kids ask the monster "How are you?"

6. Do a few "I'm sorry?"s to get the kids to shout in big loud voices (so that all the kids join in, not just the super genki ones!)

7. The monster says an answer, e.g. "I'm OK".

8. The kids repeat the answer (important practice!) and move forward one step (no jumping allowed!).

9. Repeat from 5.

10. But if the answer is "I'm hungry!!!", the kids have to run back to their safe wall! Any kid who is tagged on the way back becomes a monster for the next round!

11. Play again!

This game works a treat and is one of those magic games that the kids play long after the lesson has finished.

Mingle Game

1. The kids mingle whilst singing the mingle chant.
2. They stop and ask the teacher "What time is it?" or "How old are you?"
3. The kids get into groups of this number and sit down.

Remember Genki English Rule No. 2

"Losing" just means "Try Again" !



Newspaper Sumo!

1. Place a sheet of newspaper on the floor.



2. One kid stands on the edge of the paper. The other kid stands on the other side. Their backs are facing each other.
3. The teacher (or another kid!) asks a question (e.g. "How old are you?", "What's this?" etc.)
4. The first kid to answer correctly takes one half step back.
5. Repeat from 3 until...
6. When their feet touch, they stop. The teacher says "Go!" and without turning round they have to push the other player off the newspaper!! Just like the real game of Sumo, the first person to touch any part of the ground outside of the "ring" (or newspaper) loses!

What sports do you play? Song from CD3

When singing, act out each sport - mega fun! Cool game: One ball at a time, the kids pass the ball associated with each sport round the class saying "What sports do you play?" the next person says the sport. Time how long it takes to go round the class. Try the next type of ball. See which sport is quickest!

Stopwatch Game

1. Put the kids in two circles.
2. Each circle has sport picture card.
3. The first person says "What sports do you play?".
4. The next person answers, takes the card, and asks the next person.
5. Fastest team to go round the circle wins.

Rocket Lanuch

Start off low and reach up to the sky as you count down from 12 to 1. Launch up in the air on zero!

How old are you? Song from CD 2

Holding up fingers for each age is great for the first part (especially 11 and 12!) On the "I am 5!" part, get the kids to do a big Madonna Vogue style pose on the number!

Timebomb Game

1. Put everyone in groups of between 2 and 10 kids.
2. The first person says either "1", "2" or "3"
3. The next person continues on and can say an additional one, two or three numbers.
E.g. if the first person said "1, 2", the second person can say either "3" or "3,4" or "3,4,5"
4. Continue around the group until one person is forced to say "13". They are now out.

What's the weather like? Song from CD 1

Like the "How are you?" song, hand movements help a great deal. When singing "rainy", put your hands in the air and make your fingers fall down like rain, for "cloudy" your hands trace out a cloud shape in front of you, for "windy" try swooshing your hands down from top right to bottom left, for "snowy" you can pretend you are throwing a snow ball. For "sunny" you trace out a circle in front of you, for "fine" you hold your hand above your eyes like you can see a long way, for "hot" you wipe your brow and for "it's a beautiful day" it's good to lean back and outstretch your arms!

Weather Clap, Clap Game

1. Everyone stands up.
2. Everyone says "What's the weather like?"
3. Everyone claps two times.
4. Everyone chooses one type of weather and whilst singing the line (e.g. "It's rainy") they do the gesture.
5. If any of the kids have chosen the same weather as the teacher, they are out and sit down.
6. Repeat from 2 until all the kids are sat down.

Karuta Game

1. Kids line up at one side of room.
2. Put picture cards on floor at other side
3. Kids ask today's question.
4. The teacher answers.
5. One kid from each group races to pick up this card.
6. This kid then chooses the next card.

What are you doing? Song from CD 2

Doing actions that correspond to the lyrics is very effective. For "I'm eating" the kids pretend to eat, for "I'm drinking" they pretend to drink etc. "I'm dancing" is always an interesting one to watch! Getting one kid to go round the class as a detective singing "What are you doing?" to the other kids is an idea.

Harry Potter Game

1. Split the kids into groups.
2. One group are Voldemorts, the others are Harry Potters
3. Harry Potters run away.
4. With their fingers up in the air as wands, the Voldemorts chase after the Harry Potters.
5. When the Voldemorts catch a Harry Potter, the Harry Potter freezes.
6. The Voldemort casts a spell on the Harry Potter. E.g. "jump", "eat", "sleep", "Dance"
7. If all the Harry Potters are caught it's the End of the World!
8. If a free Harry Potter asks a bewitched Harry Potter "What are you doing?" and they can answer, they become free!

Good Morning! Song from CD3

You say "Good morning", the kids reply whilst stretching like they've just got up. You stand up and say "Good afternoon", kids reply. Similarly with "Good evening". With "Good night", the kids fall down to the floor and go to sleep! For the "hello" section the kids wave hello to a different person for each word. On the final "Hello" everyone faces the teacher and jumps in the air!

How did you get here? Song from CD3

This question may seem tricky, but the main point of the song is to practise modes of transport. As with the sports song, the best way is to mime the actions of each form of transport. Also, the teacher can sing the first "I came here by....", then the kids sing the next two repeats.

Sticky Fingers Game

You play this game with 3 kids at a time. Teach or review some vocab or question phrase, clear some space in the classroom, then...



1. The kids each grab one of the teacher's fingers, which are outstretched as shown.
2. The teacher assigns a special "keyword"
3. If the teacher says this keyword the kids run to the far wall.
4. If on the way, the teacher "tags" a kid, they are out.
5. If a kid lets go when the teacher hasn't said the keyword (e.g. if the keyword is "Dog" and the kid runs when the teacher says "Dinosaur") then they are out!!
6. Repeat from 2 until only one kid is left.
7. Start again with 3 more kids.
8. When everyone has had a go, try it again with 3 winners. Keep playing with the winners, just like a championship, until you find the ultimate winner!

Leapfrog Game

1. Lay out the cards for one theme, face up in a row.
2. One kid starts at one end saying what's on each card.
3. At the same time another kid starts saying what's on each card, but they start at the other end!
4. When they meet they "Rock, Paper, Scissors"
5. The winner starts from where they stopped.
6. The next person in the loser's team starts from the beginning of the row.
7. The first team to reach the far end is the winner.

Mini Island Hopping

1. Each kid has a set of cards in a pile.
2. The teacher says "Go!"
3. Each kid slaps down their first card and says it out loud.
4. They slap down their next card next to the last .
5. They shout it out.
6. Keep going, gradually moving across the desk.
7. The first person to shout out all their cards is the winner!

How much? Song from CD1

Put the kids into 2 groups. One group are shopkeepers and hold some items (or picture cards of items!) to sell. The other group are the shoppers and each one pairs up with a shopkeeper. All the shoppers sing together "How much, how much, how much is that " plus the name of the object that their shopkeeper partner is holding. The shopkeepers then reply "It's 10,9,8" etc. and the shoppers say "I'll take it!". The shoppers then move to the adjacent shop (make sure you decided in which direction everyone will move before you start!). When the song finishes, repeat again with the shoppers and shopkeepers reversing roles.

Bargaining Game!

1. Split the class into two halves (left and right side of the class is usually good)
2. One side is then the selling side and one is the buying side.
3. The sellers (individually) have to go and find a "buyer" and sell them something (pens, books etc are usually good, let the kids choose!)
4. The usual conversation is something like
Seller: "Hello. Nice pen!!!"
Buyer: "How much?"

Seller:"10"

Buyer : "No! 2"

Seller "No! 9!" etc. etc.

5. Give them a time limit of about 3/4 minutes (I usually count down the last ten seconds to add to the tension)
6. Afterwards sit them down and find out who did the best, and who did the worst!
7. Redo the game this time with the kids changing roles, i.e. the buyers become sellers and vice versa.

The price range should be fixed in a range from around 1 to 10. This makes sure they all know the numbers in English, and makes comparing who got the best price a lot easier. Make sure there are equal numbers of kids on each side - if you have an odd number then involve the teacher. The time limit is important, without it there is no tension! Tell them to be pushy, but watch they don't start hitting each other!!

Balloon Game

1. Put the students into groups of 4 or 5. The best way to do this is to use the Mingle, it works a treat!
2. Each group forms a circle and they hold hands.
3. Give each group a balloon.



4. As a group they have to keep the balloon in the air, but when it touches a part of someone's body they have to shout out an English word.

Suitable topics are numbers, colours, fruits, or one really cool way is to use the foods from the Food Theme. The first kid says "I like apples", then the next kid has to say "I like bananas" etc. See if they can make it all the way to "zucchini" without letting the balloon fall!

Thank you Song from CD1

Actions are good for the "seasons" section. For "summer" you pretend to swim, for "autumn" your hands fall from the sky like leaves from a tree, for winter you can pretend to ski and for "spring" your hands can shoot up in the air like a new plant. For the final "goodbye" verse I like to sing the line "goodbye" and then clap 3 times in time to the CD, sing another "goodbye" and another set of claps. Saving this for the final verse keeps everyone excited as they wait for it to come around! This song can be taught in 15 minutes.

There you go!

Right, that was just a little bit of Genki English! There's much more on the website at GenkiEnglish.com and don't forget the "Teaching Guide Videos" CD in the CD set!

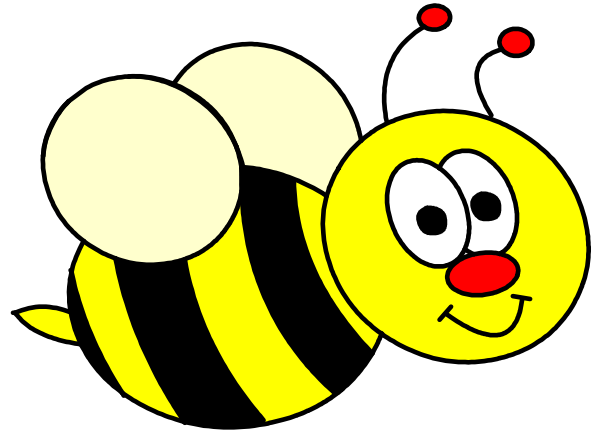
Education is the key to solving most of the World's problems, and it's all about getting the kids enthused, excited and wanting to try 110%!!

If there's anything else you need, then feel free to email me anytime at richard@genkienglish.net

You were all fantastic in the workshop; it would be really cool to be able to do more events in Germany,

so please tell all your friends!

I wish you all the best of luck and above all.....



"Be genki"

Richard

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