

Valentine's Day

Valentine's day is a popular festivity in February being celebrated in more and more countries around the world. This lesson will enable your students to acquire/revise words and chunks of language associated with Valentine's day and its traditions. It will also enable them to develop their cultural awareness and to gain knowledge about this cultural tradition and the customs that are associated with it in an Anglo American context.

Segment: young learners

Level: elementary

Materials: flashcards, internet access, bunting template and scissors.

Procedure:

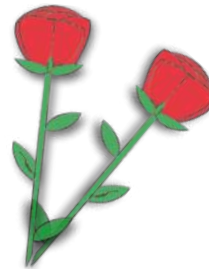
1. Begin the lesson by doing a KWL chart about Valentine's Day on the board. In the first column brainstorm what the children already know about Valentine's Day. In the second column, brainstorm what the children want to find out about Valentine's Day. Leave the third column empty until the step 6 of the lesson.

What we know	What we want to know	What we found out

2. Introduce the target words associated with Valentine's Day (see flashcards). Show one card at a time, say the target word and ask the children to repeat after you. Get the children to use different voices to make the activity more engaging.

Suggestions - Repeat in a:

- a) Romantic voice
- b) Quiet voice
- c) Loud voice
- d) Excited voice
- e) Crazy voice



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3. Play a 'Kim's game' to help the children drill the vocabulary; Get them to say the words in order and turn one card over at a time. Then, get them to chant the order of all the flashcards. Repeat until all the flashcards are turned over and the children have to use their memories to chant the order of the cards on the board.
4. Play a Cupid says game (Like *Simon says*) with the children in order to introduce the target vocabulary in language chunks.

Suggestions - Cupid says:

- a) Give a gift
- b) Smell a rose
- c) Write a love letter
- d) Give a friend a hug
- e) Blow a kiss
- f) Throw Cupid's arrow
- g) Make a heart in the air
- h) Eat a chocolate



For the the first few goes, say the language chunk and model the actions so that the children to do the action after you. Slowly withdraw the support until the children can do the actions on their own.

Rules:

- The children only do the action if the instruction begins with Cupid says. If the instruction does not begin like this, they have to keep still like a statue.
 - If a child does the wrong action or does the action without the speaker saying Cupid says, they are out.
 - The winner is the last child left playing the game. The winner can then take over from the teacher and continue the game by giving the class the instructions.
5. Invite children to find out more about Valentine's day by watching a video:

Suggestions - More advanced classes:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=JdKZepHMFWE

OR: www.youtube.com/watch?v=C5fqm6d7z8s

Less advanced classes:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=CaRgHQjC1WE

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6. Discuss the video and get the children to complete the third column of their KWL charts individually and then discuss it with a partner. *(With less advanced classes, you can do this activity in a plenary whole class format).*
7. Invite the children to make a Valentine's Day bunting banner. Write their names on slips of paper and put them in an opaque bag. Get each child to draw a name and make a Valentine's Day message for their secret friend on the bunting template. Photocopy a template of the bunting banner for each child and hand it out. Write a few Valentine's Day messages on the board so that the children can choose their favourite and copy it onto their banner.

Suggestions:

Thank you for being my friend! Happy Valentine's Day!	I hope your Valentines Day is special like you are! Happy Valentine's Day!	I like you THIS Much! Happy Valentine's Day!
It's so sweet to have a friend like you! Hope your Valentine's Day is extra sweet too!	So many of my smiles begin with you! Happy Valentine's Day.	Be my love bug! Happy Valentine's Day.

8. Then, collect the templates and get the children to help you put the bunting banner together. Put up the banner to decorate the class and at the end of your lesson on Valentine's Day take it down and distribute the "secret messages" to the children. Encourage the children to try to guess who their secret "friend" is and to thank them for their special Valentine's day friendship message.

