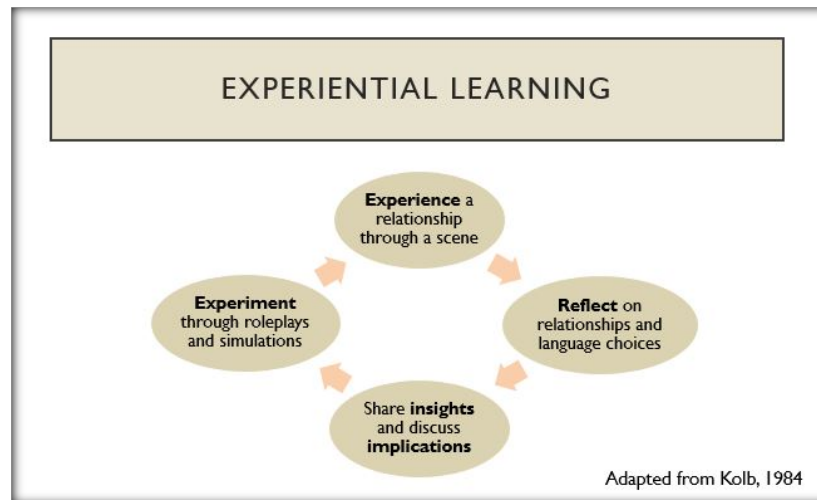


Teaching Pragmatics through Theatre

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TESOL 2019 Atlanta



ACTIVITIES

1. Guess the emotion (Prosody)

- A: Say the sentence with one of the emotions.
B: Guess the emotion.

He's bringing his wife.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Excited 2. Worried 3. Angry
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2. Meet the parents (Indirect inquiry)

This matches well with a play about dating or family life such as *Introducing Rob*.

- A. Introduce the topic of introducing someone to your parents and the conversational strategy of gathering information indirectly. Discuss language choices. Have students add to the list.

Indirect language	Direct language
Maya tells me you are good at math.	How will you support my daughter/son?
How long have you known each other?	How serious are you about my daughter?
Do you have family in town?	What kind of family do you come from?

- B. Assign roles. Give parents and couples 10 minutes to prepare. Then roleplay.

3. The Confession (Managing a relationship)

Prepare roles. Perform the sketch (on the back). Discuss the relationships and language choices. Connect to personal experience. Roleplay in a similar context.

THE CONFESSION

C: Ummm...

D: What's wrong?

C: Well, I need to tell you something, and I want you to promise not to get mad.

D: Uh-oh. What did you do?

C: Do you promise?

D: How can I promise when I don't know what it is. Just tell me.

C: Uh, it's about your car.

D: Oh no! What did you do to my car?

C: Well, I sort of hit a gate.

(D exhales)

C: It wasn't my fault.

D: I'm sure it wasn't.

C: Don't be mad.

D: I'm not mad!

C: Yes you are.

D: I'm not mad. I'm just sad.

C: I'm sad too. My foot just slipped off the brake.

D: I see.

C: I'm sorry.

D: I know. It's okay.

Roleplay cues

- You forgot to bring the paper plates and cups.
- You accidentally deleted the group project from google docs.

Add dramatic conflict

1. I don't have a ride!

1a You missed the bus. You want B to offer you a ride, but you don't want to ask directly.

1b A missed the bus, and you are afraid A is going to get you to offer her a ride.

2. That's so inappropriate!

2a Your ex or sibling just asked to use your big suitcase, and you need to vent.

2b You think, "What's the big deal?" But you don't say that.

WEBSITES

- ❖ <https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/using-drama-texts-classroom>
- ❖ <http://alwilliamsfleck.wixsite.com/esldrama>
- ❖ <https://englishendeavors.org>
- ❖ <http://www.alphabetpublishingbooks.com>