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Tips for Creative Strategies

Creativity: Thought that results in an idea that is novel and useful.

Why employ creative strategies?

- Students want creative teachers!
- Creative strategies increase student motivation, which in turn causes students to learn more deeply
- It's a more holistic way of teaching, as it combines language with a variety of fields (music, images, the body)
- It increases English's impact
 - Connects language use to students' lives
 - Gets students used to using language in more settings, ways
- Lastly, the world has new problems, we need to train students to create new solutions

Creative strategies can be split into teacher and student creativity

- Teacher Creativity (what you create for class): songs, chants, (modified, created, selected) games, images and artifacts you bring in, gesture one creates, etc.
- Student Creativity (what students create in class): skits, stories, images, ideas, dialogues. etc.

Look at the lessons in the textbook and think:

- What information, activities, etc. can I **substitute**? (maybe you know a better game)
- What can I **combine** or **adapt** this new information with? (what could make things more relevant, interesting?)
- How could I **modify** this?
- Would might I **eliminate**?
- What should I **rearrange**?

These are just some questions to get you started looking at the text as a jumping off point for creative strategies.

Guidelines

- Incremental implementation: ease into creativity strategies in the class, and build slowly.
- Structure: Creativity demands different ways of thinking from students. It's not always easy!
 - Use constraints (time, thematic, etc.) to make sure an activity isn't too open-ended
 - Collectively brainstorm as a class to produce ideas to be used within an activity, rather than let students loose to come up with big ideas by themselves
- Creativity is a skill that can be developed. Keep employing creative strategies with students and they'll get better and better!

Employing creative strategies, you may fail more often as a teacher, but when you succeed you'll succeed more greatly.