



CLAP-CLAP

A warmer to encourage group co-ordination through rhythm

Level:	All levels
Target Audience:	Secondary, Adults
Language / Skills Focus:	Group warmer and energiser
Activity Time:	10 minutes
Materials:	None

IN CLASS

- 1 Ask the group to form a circle, facing inwards, and explain the activity to the class:.

Learner 1 turns and looks at Learner 2 on the left who looks back in response. Learner 1 claps his/her hands once and 'passes' the clap to Learner 2. Learner 2 responds also with a clap (to 'catch' the clap) then turns to his/her partner on the left (Learner 3) and claps a second time to pass the clap on. Learner 3 responds with a clap (to 'catch' the clap), turns to the left, and claps to pass the clap on to Learner 4. This continues around the circle.

The key point to remember is that each person claps twice - once to catch a clap and the second time to pass it on.

- 2 Begin the activity, and encourage learners to pass and catch the clap in a regular rhythm - then allow the clap to gain speed, which it will inevitably do. The clap should pass around the room with lots of energy just like a pulse. Any learner who lacks energy will be aware of the slackness in the flow.

- 3 Allow a few minutes for the clap to be passed around quickly and smoothly, then bring the activity to an end.

EXTENSION

Once the learners are accomplished in passing the clap in the way described above, continue to the next step of the activity:

Here, Learner 1 starts by passing the clap to the left - to Learner 2. Learner 2 must catch the clap as before but now has a choice:

- To pass the clap on to the left as before.
- To pass the clap back to Learner 1, who must catch the clap and can then either pass it directly back to Learner 2 or pass it on to his/her right.
- To pass the clap across the circle.

Practise this with the class for two or three minutes until they get used to it. Again, try to get the whole class to keep a regular rhythm at first then speed up.

VARIATION

This can be a great game for new groups to learn each other's names. Learners say their names as they pass the clap. The recipient catches the clap (saying the sender's name aloud as they do so) and passes on their own name with the clap.



lesson plans

warmers

COMMENT

Sound is very important in this activity, so it is important that the clap always makes a loud sound.

In my experience, once learners have learnt the game, they will want to do it very often and they will get better and better at it. This is a fantastic energiser, which puts learner in a state of readiness for the lesson. It also encourages eye contact and it has a strong effect on group co-ordination.
learners' awareness and appreciation of these differences.

Peter Dyer is a teacher and teacher trainer with many years' experience. He studied Drama and Media Arts at Melbourne University, and later taught in Secondary Schools and private institutions in Australia and London.

Peter has worked extensively in theatre as a professional actor, trainer and director. Since coming to Europe, Peter has been associated with Pilgrims, Canterbury and has led workshops in many countries on the use of drama methodology in the classroom.

Now based in Paris, Peter is currently writing a book on drama methods for the classroom. He also works with actors and teaches Business English learners using drama methodology.