

Making reading communicative

CAN CLASSROOM READING BE COMMUNICATIVE?



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- ► Reading is as communicative as any other form of language use and as teachers our aim is to bring out that communicative element at our lessons.
- ► The key point in communicative reading is that while we may read alone we communicate what we read to others constantly.
- ► Talking about what we have read is a rich source of classroom possibilities.

Strategies used for communicative reading:

Classroom reading aims at helping students develop the skills they need to read more effectively in a variety of ways.

To enable this we plan 'pre-reading', 'while-reading', and 'post-reading' stages. These stages can help us make reading more communicative.



Pre-reading tasks often aim to raise the readers'

knowledge of what they are about to read (their schematic knowledge) as this knowledge will help them to understand the text.

Tell your partner or partners what you know about the topic

Do a quiz in pairs or groups to find out what you know about the topic

Look at some pictures related to the topic

Skimming the first paragraph for the gist and then predicting

Let's try out one of the pre-reading approaches I use





What type of show is that?

a) chat show

c) talent show

b) game show

d) cookery show

Who had the first idea for the

Got Talent series?

- a) an American
- b) an Englishman
- c) a Frenchman
- d) an Italian





Simon Phillip Cowell is an English television personality, the creator of Got Talent series and the judge on various British and American talent shows.

Which country showed the first Got Talent show?

- a) Britain
- b) America (the USA)
- c) France
- d) Italy



How many countries have got Got Talent shows?

- a) 5 countries
- b) 10 countries
- c) 15 countries
- d) over 20 countries



Who takes part in Got Talent shows?

- a) politicians
- b) chefs
- c) talented people like singers, dancers, comedians, and actors

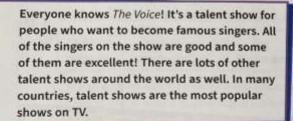


Can you predict the content of the text?

Can you guess the title?

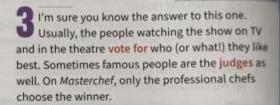
TALENT SHOWS

What do you really know about talent shows?



There are shows like Got Talent for musicians, people doing magic, singers ... and lots more. There's a show for dancers, too. It's called *Strictly Come Dancing*. Every year there are new ideas for talent shows. There are even some national talent shows for robots and singing dogs!

Yes, most of the talent shows on TV are live. It's also possible to go to the studio and be a member of the audience. Then you can watch a talent show live on stage.



In a competition there is always a winner.
The winner of the final usually gets a prize and sometimes becomes a star. On some shows the runner-up gets a prize too and a few of them become stars. On a few shows, the winner gets nothing – but they often become famous!

Most of the time, the people on the shows can say, sing or do what they want to. Sometimes, the show tells them the words to say, so they are a bit like actors or performers. But this doesn't happen on all the shows.

While-reading tasks

Although reading is often a solitary activity, reading can be collaborative. The following approaches can be used at this stage:

Running and reading

Slashed / Cut up texts

Jigsaw reading

Running and reading: the idea is to encourage the

students to read as quickly as possible in a race.

Divide the class into student A and student B pairs. Student A sits at one end of the classroom. Stick the text to be read on the wall at the other end of the room. Give student A a list of questions. Student A reads the first question to student B who has to run down the classroom to find the answer in the text, and then run back to dictate the answer to student A, who then tells B question 2 and so The first pair to answer all the questions wins. (I ask the students to swap roles halfway through so everyone gets a chance to scan).

Answer the questions about the article:

- ▶ 1) What talent show is there for dancers?
- ▶ 2) Where can people go to watch the show live?
- ▶ 3) Who are the judges of talent shows?
- ▶ 4) What happens to the runners-up on talent shows?
- ▶ 5) Why are some of the people on talent shows a bit like actors?

Post-reading tasks

Discussions about the text

Summarising texts

Using teamwork

Using the vocabulary

Making students' own tests

Using Teamwork

- ► After students have read the text, ask them to make groups of five or six people.
- ► Set a time limit of five minutes and tell them they have to brainstorm as many facts about the text as they can.
- ▶ The group that can recall the most is the winner.

I hope you will find these activities fun, engaging and very communicative!

