

Plan B or when technology fails

Webinar handout

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Below are little/no-preparation activities you can do when technology fails to work in your class.

Warmers without technology

- Doodle

Let your students doodle for a few minutes.	Ask them to find clothes, fruit, etc. in doodle and colour it.	In pairs students guess what their partners found.
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- Open your coursebook at any page

Ask your students to open a coursebook at any page and choose a picture they like.	Ask pairs to find as many similarities as possible, e.g. people eating, something green...
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- Draw on your head

Choose a picture from your coursebook.	Ask students to put a piece of paper on their head and dictate the picture to them.	Students then compare their pictures against the picture in the coursebook.
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- Dice game

Elicit demo actions that go with the 6 numbers on the board.	Choose a student and show them a word from the previous class.	Student then rolls the dice or chooses a paper with a number.	Student demos the word based on the number and the class guess the word.
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Longer lesson structures without technology

- Noughts and crosses

Draw a noughts and crosses board and divide the class into two teams.	Divide the coursebook exercises into a few parts ignoring the numbers in the coursebook.	Play noughts and crosses. Groups get a square if they answer correctly.
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- Word snake

Ask students to draw and cut out a spiral snake.	Ask them to divide it into 10 or 15 sections.	Students then write a difficult word from last week in each section.	They then try and guess one of the words using definitions.
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- Snowflakes

Show students how to cut out paper snowflakes. Then elicit about 5 level-appropriate questions.	Students write their answers on their snowflake and then make it "snow" in class.	Students choose a snowflake that's not their and find out who it belongs to by asking the questions.	If time, encourage students to ask follow-up questions.
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- Stop the bus: Learn how to play here <https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/teaching-resources/teaching-secondary/activities/beginner-a1/stop-bus>
- Fortune teller: Watch ESL Kids Club show you how to make one here: ESL school fortune teller activity <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPpzhpDPMu8>

Finishing the class without technology

- Students make and solve anagrams from new vocabulary
- Students could do a chain story with new vocabulary: Learner A "I'm going on a picnic and I'm taking a...". Learner B: "I'm going on a picnic and I'm taking a... and a...."
- Flashcard line jump (jobs-jump left, fruit-jump right, animals-clap!)
- Students write T/F sentences based on a textbook page (could be comprehension questions)

A recording of Silvie's webinar can be watched here: <https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/news-and-events/webinars/webinars-teachers/different-approaches-technology-classroom-mini-event>