

In the Classroom

By Lindsay Clandfield

Level: Elementary**Age:** All**Materials needed:** Post-it notes (optional)**Objective:** Teaching the vocabulary of the classroom used in American English

Optional lead in

There are two ways you could lead into this lesson.

- 1 Prepare a series of Post-it notes with different words for things in your classroom on them (e.g. board, desk, teacher, window, lamp, CD player). At the beginning of class distribute the Post it notes to students and ask them to put them where they belong. Go over the pronunciation of the words afterwards.
- 2 Give individual students blank Post it notes and ask them to write the name of something in the class on them, and then stick the label on the object. Go over the pronunciation of the words at the end, checking spelling at the same time.

Stage 1

Distribute the Worksheet and ask students to look at the first exercise. Ask them to try and match the pictures to the descriptions. If this is too hard, then explain the words *circle*, *semi-circle* and *rows*. Once students have the answers, ask them which kind of classroom they prefer. (If you are able to change the seating in your class, this may be a good occasion to see what students like, and would like in the future).

You could also use this opportunity to review prepositions of place. Ask the students to write a similar description of the classroom they are in now.

Answers: B, C, D, A

Stage 2

Direct students to the second exercise. In pairs, they should tick the things that are in the class. Go through the answers, and drill the pronunciation of the words.

Answers: will depend on what is in the classroom!

Stage 3

Write the following on the board:

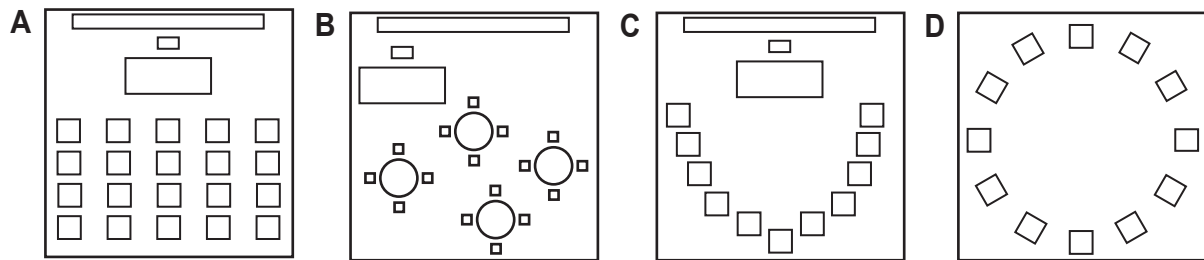
We think the most important things in the classroom are...

Tell students to work in pairs and choose the five most important things for the classroom from Activity 2. When pairs have finished, tell them to compare with another pair and make a new list of five based on both pairs' decision. Finally, ask each group to read out their five things.

Culture note

Read aloud, or ask a student to read aloud, the information in the culture note. Explain any of the difficult words or ask them to use a dictionary. Students then answer the questions in pairs. Alternatively you could run this as a whole class discussion.

1 Look at the different pictures of a classroom. Match them to the descriptions.



..... The students sit in groups of four at a table. The teacher's desk is on one side of the class and the board is at the front of the class.

..... The students sit in straight rows. The teacher's desk and the board are at the front of the class.

..... The students sit in a circle. The teacher's chair is in the circle and there isn't a desk or a board.

..... The students' chairs are in a semi-circle. The teacher's desk and board are at the front of the class.

2 Tick the things that you have in your classroom. Check any words you don't understand in a dictionary, or with the teacher.

- a board a CD player/cassette player a television a DVD player
 chalk markers bookshelves dictionaries chairs
 desks a lamp computers plants

3 Work in pairs. Look at the list in 2 again. What are most important in a classroom? Choose the FIVE most important things. Compare your results with another pair.

Culture note

Read the text and answer the questions.

Security in US schools

In high schools across the United States of America:

- 30 % use security guards
- 4 % use metal detectors for guns or knives
- 18 % have security cameras
- 18 % have metal fencing around the entire school

- 1 Are there any of these things in schools in your country?
- 2 Is violence a problem in high schools in your country?

