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The use of active learning technology in English lessons as a means of developing students' critical thinking in the updated program.

Over the past few years, the view of conducting English lessons in school has changed significantly. Not only the teaching methodology, but also the education system itself in Kazakhstan has undergone radical changes. Following the dictates of the times, the very approach to work in the classroom has changed. The existing dogmatic form of work in the classroom, when students were only passive listeners who received most of the educational material from the teacher, gave way to new teaching methods, where the student himself, capable of independent search for new knowledge, was placed at the forefront. This form of organization of work in the classroom is called "active teaching methods".

The new Dictionary of Methodological Terms and Concepts defines active learning methods as "a general name for a group of methods focused on practical language learning through extensive use of collaborative forms of learning, including role-playing and modern educational technologies. Such methods include various variants of direct, communicative and intensive methods". [3,]

Active teaching methods are the ways of activating learning and cognitive activity of students, which encourage them to initiate mental and practical activity in the process of mastering the material, when not only the teacher is active, but the students themselves are also active. At the same time the teacher's work should not be aimed at presenting ready-made knowledge and control of their assimilation.

Active learning methods include the following technologies:

- Problem-based learning technology;
- Technology of project-based learning;
- Game technologies;
- Interactive technologies.

Speaking about active teaching methods, we should also mention the techniques that are used to develop a particular skill in students. Here, first of all, the following methods should be named:

- Cluster technique;
- Insert technique;
- Jigsaw technique.

The Cluster technique is used quite often on English lessons. This technique is effective when working on both vocabulary and grammar, as well as when discussing and systematizing the material. Cluster technology can be used for both individual and group work. It also allows you to develop the thinking and speech of students, improve the development of spelling skills of students. The main goal of receiving a cluster is the development of associative thinking, the formation of skills for analyzing and systematizing the studied educational material.

Let us consider an example of applying the Cluster technique based on work on the topic “City life, country life” of the Excel for Kazakhstan grade 9 textbook.

The teacher gives the task to the groups of students to make clusters for the keywords City life and Country life. Children activate all associations related to these topics, which, as a result, leads students to reflect and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of living in the city and in the countryside.

The "Insert" technique is a form of working on students' reading skills, which contributes to the development of critical thinking when working with a text document, the ability to find logical connections and analyze what they have read. It can be used at any stage of learning a foreign language, but it is most fully applicable in high school. Students in the course of work with the text make appropriate notes in the table, identify

facts, terms, concepts with which they were familiar, find something new, identify something contradictory (incomprehensible), require clarification.

At the initial stage, students read the text, marking it with special signs:

V - I know this;

+ - this is new information for me;

- I thought differently, it contradicts what I knew;

? - it is not clear to me, I need explanations and clarifications.

The students then fill in the table with the data in the form of theses.

An example of how to fill in the table during the group work with the text in 9th grade using the Excel for Kazakhstan textbook on the topic "Silk through Sauran":

V	+	-	?
Sauran is abandoned ancient city in the South of Kazakhstan	Sauran was a major trading centre on the Silk Road	Silk Road was a network of routes connected east Asia to southern Europe and The Middle East	Why was Sauran abandoned?

After the students fill in the table, the abstracts are read out without discussing them. The discussion takes place at the stage of reflection, when the analysis of the read text takes place and students can enter into a discussion of the theses.

The Jigsaw technique is most effective not only when working with text, but also with grammatical material. The main purpose of using this technology in the classroom is to develop students' ability to independently acquire knowledge and the ability to interact with each other. At the beginning of the lesson, all students are divided into groups. Further, during the lesson, each student receives a micro-topic or part of the text in which he must become an expert. Then an active exchange of information between group members begins. Working collaboratively, students teach each other.

The techniques listed above allow the teacher to form and develop not only the communication skills of students, but also develop critical thinking. The teacher's task is to create conditions for practical language acquisition for each student, to choose

such teaching methods that would allow each student to show their activity, their creativity, and also to activate cognitive activity in the process of teaching English.

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