

MAGIC

The latest and most offbeat pointers for teachers of all languages who wish to amaze!

Fall 2006, Vol. 1 No. 1

100
TIPS

to "spice up"
any lesson!

Easy as 1-2-3



LAUGHING CHANTING COMMUNICATING ... MAGICALLY

Students of all ages respond to the allure of a magic trick. What is a magic trick? It's anything unexpected. That's it - the entire secret, the whole enchilada. Become a "master of the unexpected" and your students will laugh, chant and communicate. This bulletin will brief you on just how easy it is to surprise them into speaking.

Laughing. It happens when students are happy to be with you. When they are cosy and comfortable. When you fumble with a so-called magic trick- or when the trick actually works!

Chanting. Chanting happens when the class creates and then shouts a repeated rhythmic phrase in unison to make the trick work. "Please please please make it work work work!"

Communicating. This happens when you question students repeatedly about what's happening and they actually answer you. All of this is GOOD.

Is anything about a magic trick routine, everyday, ordinary? On the contrary, it is atypical for a student to go to school and be entertained. It is therefore a new experience. When a trick starts, who knows how it will finish? Because you're a novice, not even YOU know how it will

end up. That makes it even more edge-of-the-seat for your students, an even more uncommonly rare experience! Students repay you by their magically fixed attention and vocal responsiveness. This e-newsletter will guide the language teacher toward a more "magical" classroom.

In this issue ...

- A Trick or a Story?
- New Tricks: How-To
- Word-Skeleton
- The Judy Mouse
- The "Change Bag
- Number Magic
- Flag Trick
- Sneezing Trick
- Make-at-Home Magic
- The Appearing Light!



Where did "Language Teacher Magic" come from? Italian teacher, Judi Mazziotti (above) with few resources when faced with a school of 600 inner city students from 3-13 yrs. of age wished for "magic potions," googled them, found them and is sharing them! Pictured at top: she is now a magically happy Italian teacher!

NEW TRICKS



1. What 2 or 3 common structures are you needing to focus on? Write on the board. Teach actively.

2. Craft your magic story so as to repeat those basic structures. Elicit student details to flesh out the trick's story.

3. Circle your structures over and over, SLOWLY as you tell the magic story, asking questions of the group, looking in students' eyes to determine level of comprehension. Translate ALL new words on the board, smoothing puzzled looks.

4. Try for three locations to the story or three voices or different hats that come on and off, off-beat props. Sing. Dance. Draw. Surprise often.

5. When you get to the crisis moment, invite predictions as to the outcome. Record on the board.

6. Arrive at the solution of the trick, the resolution of the problem.

7. Weave a parallel story using the students in class. Compare/contrast.

8. Write it out. Add new twist. Read it together, translating, enjoying.

A trick or ... a story?

You start. You grab a scarf, you wave it around and then what? Will something happen - or not? Will the scarf disappear or will it change color. Will it turn into a flower, a mouse, or, is the teacher about to sneeze? Toss out some target language clues. Let students hypothesize and then listen to their predictions as the trick unfolds... they are involved in the outcome.

There is a beginning - a scarf with or without a name- a middle (you wave it around dramatically i.e. "Mr. Scarf" is in dire trouble), and then there is an end where a change has taken place. Mr. Scarf has solved his problem or else is left in tears.

Or, you may have an 'empty' black hat (or a black cat, for that matter), You wiggle your fingers all over it and you peek in and gasp. Something's in there! It's a story! Each magic trick is a mini-story. The best kind. With visuals. Concrete multidimensional visuals.

OK. We can imagine something coming out of a hat. Maybe. But out of a cat? Why not! Any pet, live or stuffed, can cough up ... mouth coils*. An old trick. Yes! Check out Rainbow or Mouth Streamers [HERE](#). Magic is colorful, dramatic and unexpected. Every trick IS a story!

THE MOUSE

The children have asked me over and over to magically produce a rabbit or a dove. I would have loved to do that but just didn't have the patience to deal with the animals. I've found the solution. The change bag is empty-you turn it inside out to prove it. Students stick their hands in to make sure? Nothing! What would the perfect animal do? Elicit verbs: walk, jump, run, eat... consult your TL rhyming dictionary and create a chant. Let the kids memorize it. Here's one in English: "pet that comes, pet that goes, pet that jumps right on my nose." My

hand goes in and out comes a quivering and excitable little white mouse.

She can be the mother mouse in the



famous Cat and Mouse story or just a hungry mouse looking for food who likes perching on noses (in this case).

Judy Mouse is just great! She's a true-to-life fur mouse that just about comes alive in your hands! She hops all over the place, runs up and down various body parts as orchestrated by the class. Teacher can then do so on a child or two. Watch not to actually touch other than a hand, arm or shoulder. Your students will believe she's alive! Find her [HERE](#).

Judy Mouse is about 4" long and made of high-quality fur. Judy is really easy to use, and will definitely find a place in your classroom. The class can name her and she can be the classroom mascot or you can just retire her except for special appearances. Better not to wear out the welcome or the magic just may disappear.

Your story can involve... oh no! oh no! computer mouse envy! Or, it could be Tom or Jerry who got frightened of _____ (they fill in the blank) (... a 'mouse pizza' on the menu?) and turned white. The biological traits of a mouse could be listed. Rodent problems could be dis-

cussed, or the use of mice in research. Or, you could dress it up! The [Maisy](#) the mouse picture books are some of my favorites for the elementary crowd-or, from [Richard Fowler - There's a Mouse About the House!](#) Play with [The City Mouse and the Country Mouse](#) dichotomy. Google this in your TL! Find free photos on the internet of pet mice in various situations that could become your next Power Point story. Just google "(white) mouse photos."

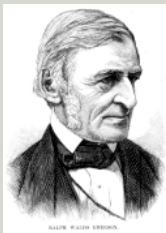
The Mouse that Roared

One last [mouse](#) trick? Get a handy CD or mini voice recorder and player with small remote. Ask a question and the press the hidden button (in pocket or in change bag) and the mouse will answer some fun target language questions. Make sure sound can be heard by all. Place player in more central yet hidden location if necessary. Or, use a squeaker in your pocket or a Swiss bird warbler in your mouth as Dan Garrett does! Fun!

Emerson, Magic & Love

"A deep man believes in miracles, waits for them, believes in magic (and believes)... that love can exalt all and overcome all odds."

Ralph Waldo Emerson
(1803-1882)



WORD-SKELETON GOES TO SCHOOL.

... and just in time for Halloween! We all remember the hangman game and realize its potential for vocabulary practice and spelling.

We also know that in the 21st century the above concept is not politically correct. A pile of bones, however, can be extracted from our our previously 'empty' magic bag and 'strung up' for learning purposes. It is no longer a human but is simply a skeleton. Hang up the skeleton! Just as a medical student learns about the body so do our students.

The exact number of blanks for the word or phrase to be guessed are put on the board. Students then guess the word or phrase letter by letter. Correct guesses allow them to connect their choice of body part to the previously attached part. Preschoolers would simply guess a letter, state the name of the body part and hook it on. Guessed letters are listed on board.

More advanced students will say, "This skeleton needs a... head," or, "must have a head in order ...to think." or, "Mr. Skeleton, I'd really like to give you this spiffy new _____."

Students could also name the part to which they are connecting the bone, in addition to the part in their hand. The game ends when the skeleton is completely out of his closet and on display! Skeleton can become a character in class story! Get ready for the fall holidays and get yourself a [Skeleton HERE!!!](#) and a [Magic Change Bag HERE!!!](#)



Word Skeleton is new active version of 'Hangman' word game



Long-awaited ["Change Bag"](#) now here, the ...

SACK OF ALL TRADES!!!

The MOST magical prop of all. You pop something into the sack, wave your hand over it a few times and ... poof! It's gone!!!

Or... it starts out empty and ... suddenly, ... something ... comes out of it! Then, it's turned inside out and shown to be empty again...and when, you think it's all over, out comes something else! Or, if you wish, the original item can reappear modified in some way. **It makes teaching "there is" and "there are" phrases child's play! And their negative versions, too!** The "Change Bag" IS the "sack of all trades!"

This world famous [REPEAT CHANGE BAG](#) is on **SPECIAL** this fall. See the red circle at right now!

Need ideas for what to magically change in this bag? See the "Magic Word List" bonus for your computer free with the DVD in red circle! How about the caterpillar to butterfly metamorphosis? And read about the Judy Mouse, Skeleton, FLAG TRICK, Sneezing Trick or Numbers Trick right here!

More "Change Bag" ideas fill this page!



"CHANGE BAG" FLAG MAGIC

The "**Foreign Language Magic 101**" DVD, tells and shows you step by step how to insert a flag's colors and symbols and, abracadabra... out comes the flag. Each time the class says those magic words, the flag gets larger (i.e. the flag that comes out of the empty bag is larger). A dramatic ending concludes this spectacular trick! You'll find it all on the DVD with the easy steps demonstrated for you!

The Magic "Change Bag" is your #1 secret device. It's a brightly colored sack with a wooden handle and opening. This "[Change Bag](#)" has been used by magicians for hundreds of years. It is one of the most useful and versatile magic tools available to a foreign language teacher/magician. It works with any object that fits into the bag. The current model comes with a sheet of 12 simple tricks.

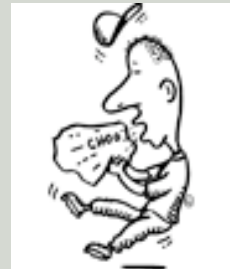
It is priced economically this fall to encourage teachers to delve into the new world of language magic!



"Change Bag" Special!
Regularly \$19.95
NOW just
\$15.99

"CHANGE BAG" Induces Sneezing Fit ... Ahhhh Choo !!!!

During the 'cold and flu season' or your health unit, or any story, have a puppet or anyone who dares, sneeze into the previously shown "empty"



[change bag](#). Oh no! Oh no! Oh no! A couple of magic hand wiggles and out comes

... a handful of green glop (sold at all toy stores and dollar stores). The class says the appropriate TL rejoinder and the once again "empty" bag produces something ELSE... this time, a clean tissue for a student-led sniffle fest!



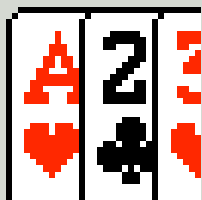
(For MATH "Change Bag" tips, see p. 5)

“CHANGE BAG”

MATH MAGIC:

EASY AS 1...2...3...!

Just cut up some numbers or toss a variety of playing cards into the “empty” repeat “Change Bag”.



The numbers may be of one or of many digits. The teacher is blindfolded or places a cloth over head and

turns away. A student chosen by the class picks a number or a card out of the bag and displays it to the class. The teacher is able to guess the number or card without looking. A different student chooses a different number and once again the teacher knows the number! See below (B.-H.) for more details.

MAKE-AT-HOME NUMBER MAGIC!

A.) CAREFULLY GLUE TWO FLAT PAPER BAGS (4X6 IN. HAS WORKED FOR ME) BACK-TO-BACK, BUT UPSIDE-DOWN FROM EACH OTHER.

B.) PRE-LOAD ONE SIDE WITH SLIPS ALL OF THE SAME NUMBER.

C.) PRE-LOAD OTHER SIDE WITH A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT NUMBERS.

D.) NUMBERS FROM SIDE “C” ABOVE, ARE DISPLAYED TO CLASS, PROVING THEM ALL TO BE DIFFERENT.

E.) DISCRETELY FLIP THE BAG AROUND WHILE WAVING HAND OR SILK SCARF TO DISTRACT.

F.) YOU CLOSE EYES AND WHILE STUDENT CLOSSES EYES AND PULLS OUT ONE AND ONLY ONE SLIP, REVEALING THE SINGLE DRAWN NUMBER TO THE CLASS.

H.) THE TEACHER, WHILE STILL BLINDFOLDED, ANNOUNCES THE NUMBER!!!!

MORE MATH MAGIC WITH HOME-MADE BAG

1. Find some card-pairs that equal 10: 1+9. 2+6. 3+7. 4+6. 5+5.

2. Place a set of cards equalling 10 in one side of your bag (ex.2+8).

3. Wave a scarf or hand over it- magic words please!

4. ... out comes a “10” card ... and the other two cards have disappeared!

5. Continue putting other card pairs one-by-one into the side that already contains the

first card-pair.

6. Place the silk on top (or don’t!) and secretly flip the bag and pull out another of your pre-loaded “10” cards each time - not showing that other 10s lie waiting.

You will need five number “10s,” and they need to be loaded ahead of time. Show shock each time a new “10” comes out.

I have even used the Home-Made Change Bag to produce 25 foot Rainbow Streamers:

(www.ritornello.com).

Use your imagination and you’ll come up with a myriad of uses for this inexpensive yet magical teaching tool.

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All tricks are to be performed only once during a particular class. Do not reuse any magic prop too often for the same class, or the magic may disappear!

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This magic is protected by the “Magician’s Code.” Only those pursuing a career as magician or teacher about to use these tricks can be shown their “magic” secrets. Disrespect of this rule could cause all magic to disappear from the world!

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THE APPEARING LIGHT!

The "Light From Anywhere" is a ["D'Lite"](#) for the language teacher! You easily control a bright red light at your finger tips, seemingly with only bare hands. This 'light' trick, designed by Roger Mayfarth in 1987 for world renowned magician, Rocco, electrifies students by making the light appear and disappear from view as often as you wish.

Not only that, it can also penetrate, be tossed from hand to hand (if you have two of them), and can illuminate certain objects with a shining light.

Lights off? No. Lights can be on in class room and magic ["D'Lite"](#) is visible to all.

Learning curve? 30 minutes practice max to feel really comfortable.

TRICKS ANYONE CAN DO WITH "D'LITE:"

1. Pluck a red light from anywhere – a student's hair, elbow, knee, etc.
2. Pretend to put one in your ear, and pull it out of your mouth!
3. Toss it up in the air, under legs, and catch it again.

4. Light up any transparent object upon command and make it...

GLOW RED.

What kinds of transparent objects???

- an ice cube • a paper napkin, a glass of water, plastic ruler, etc., etc.

Lesson and Story Ideas for [D'Lite](#):

- **Map & Cardinal Points:** 'Light' named by students can go from city to city on TC map as directed by students. Gets lost? Finds way by asking directions!
- **The glass of water** turns from clear to red when speaking the TL. After learning magic phrase, becomes comfortably transparent again.
- The opera singer (or anyone) **hiccups red lights** when mouth opened. When singing (speaking) TL the red hiccuping stops.
- **The firefly** flits from student to student with a special message...
- **Rudolph the Red-Nosed Teacher:** teach the song and when they sing it all the way through the first time, your nose lights up!
- **A special 'flame'** comes from student's mouth to shine on student's head whenever s/he answers / behaves appropriately (can be Pentecost idea for Christian school teachers).
- **Prepositions:** teacher can place "glow" in various places in classroom and class members state placement, i.e. in dictionary, under window, near door, above cabinet, to the right of telephone, under Evan's nose, etc.
- **More Preposition Practice!** Students one-by-one create a verbal trail for 'glow' to follow in or out of peoples' (or, teacher's) eyes, ears, elbows, knees, feet, etc. specifying left or right Or, teacher can perform a short sequence and students can repeat in past tense where the light has been.
- **Traffic safety, Fire safety**
- **Olympic Flame**
- [Legend of Poinsettia – Mexican Christmas Story about Flame Leaf ...](#)
- [Camp Fire Safety Education](#)



COMING IN NEXT ISSUE:

- Color magic ideas galore!
- Winter Science Magic: Make the water you've just poured into your glass FREEZE!
- MAKE it SNOW right in class!!!
- Calendar Magic supreme!
- Make-at-home magic, PLUS!
- Foreign Bill Exchanges, magically!
- Ice cream Magic!
- Weird Body Photo How-To (see p. 1, lower photo of my hands!!!)
- and much more!

Body Parts for Teachers!

[Stock Up NOW!!!!](#)

