







NeuroELT textbook modification strategies x genre

Any page of any textbook can be taught in many, many different ways. It is largely a matter of simply deciding to do things in a fresh way. This chart lists a few ways to modify some of the most common exercises in textbooks. It is organized in ways we know have a positive impact on brain-friendly learning. On this chart “you/your” = “the students.” 🗳️ = they decide.

	Dialogs	Speaking tasks (pair-group-work)	Listening	Reading (with comp. questions)
 <p>emotion</p>	Make your voice show the emotion(s) of the characters.	Rate the questions/items for interest: 😊, 😐, 😞. Start with the interesting ones.	Rate questions: (😊, 😐, 😞)	😊, 😐, 😞 OR rock/ scissors/ paper for “right” to answer. Partner checks
 <p>choice</p>	Underline key words. Think of and use substitutions. (Funny ones are great!)	Stand up. Find a new partner. Finished? New partners. Do it again with or without book.	Do you want to do this alone or with a partner? Book open or closed? 🗳️	Do you want to (try to) answer the questions before or after you read?
 <p>novelty</p>	Students change something to make the story surprising. Perform for another pair. Repeat. OR Add costume elements like hats, props, masks, etc.	Check Teachers’ Manual/ website for alternative activities. If it can be personalized, choose a character and do it is him/her (Harry Potter, Mickey Mouse)	Listen. Write the opposite answers. (Some are easy: “yes” → “no”. But what’s the opposite of “pink?”) (Yes, it is crazy. But it insures thinking!)	Read the text. Then change some words. Read it. Partner, listen. Find “mistakes.” Decide if partner uses book or not.
 <p>senses</p>	Act it out (OR) “Walk & Talk” as you do the task. www.tinyurl.com/sensoryELT	Add senses to practice of target sentences. See www.tinyurl.com/models-senses	Listen, then act out the scene. OR Listen & shadow: with or without script 🗳️	Instead of writing answers, draw pictures. Or pantomime.
 <p>challenge</p>	Group of 3 (for a 2-person dialog). A, B & the “human CD player”. Only the CD player has the book open. Others listen, remember & say. OR Create the next scene in the conversation.	Work with the key sentences/ language target: study for 1 minute. Close books and pairs try to recreate. OR Teachers eliminates some words. Guess, then check.	Choose your support: 🗳️ (1) Listen & touch words/pictures in book (2) Watch teacher who points to key words on board OR (3) Close your eyes, watch the “mental movie.”	Work in pairs. Put the reading on the wall. Run to it, read, run back. Tell the answers. Partner, write. Take turns. OR “speed reading aloud” (pairs, 45 sec’s.)
 <p>creativity</p>	Change voices-see www.tinyurl.com/varydialogs	Use colored pencils. Make a system for the colors.	Listen, then act out the scene. OR Draw you answers.	Draw your answers.
 <p>personalize</p>	Change story to your ideas.	Change it to be about you and your partner. OR Skip the task. How long can you & a partner speak in English?	“About you.” Teacher asks questions like those in recording. Answer about self. Compare.	Before you read, look at the pictures. Write 3 questions. As you read, answer them.

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