



Formulaic Expressions Resource Guide

Introduction

Tui Tuia | Learning Circle - Languages has created this free resource to support language teachers in Aotearoa in teaching and promoting use of formulaic expressions in the classroom.

The resource documents are based on fifteen commonly used formulaic expressions in twelve languages: Chinese, Cook Island Māori, French, German, Japanese, Korean, New Zealand Māori, Niuean, New Zealand Sign Language, Samoan, Spanish, and Tongan.

Although these phrases do not cover all common phrases used in the classroom, we hope that they provide a platform for teachers to continue introducing formulaic expressions to their students. Care has been taken to provide singular, plural, formal, informal versions of some phrases in relevant languages. Translations have been selected based on widespread use rather than literal translations of the English phrases. For Asian languages we have provided a romanisation of the Asian characters for beginner use but have aimed to focus mainly on the Asian characters through the use of a larger font.

The free resource pack contains the following documents:

- A4 Posters
- A4 Flashcards
- Mini Flashcards
- A4 Page of the 15 expressions

Why Use Formulaic Expressions?

Using formulaic expressions, especially early on in students' language learning journey, is very important, as it promotes fluency and helps students to internalise patterns and routines before later focusing on form or rule-based competence. It's important to get the students using the language in the classroom right from the start and these phrases can help you to achieve that.

Acknowledgements

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Language is a precious taonga and we appreciate their time and expertise given to help us create these resources.

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Activity Ideas

BACK TO THE BOARD USING BIG FLASHCARDS



Choose two students (could be from two teams). Stand with your back to the whiteboard and get the students also to stand with their back to the board in front of you. Hold up a big flashcard picture/word in front of you or Bluetac it to the white board. Say 1-2-3 in the TL and the students must turn around and look at the card. The first person to say the word correctly is the winner.

THE NOSE GAME USING MINI FLASHCARDS – A SET FOR EACH GROUP

Divide the players into groups of 2-6 players. Players sit around a table or in a circle on the floor. Give each table of players a set of the Mini Flashcards. Instruct the players to arrange the cards on the table. Players arrange the cards in the centre of the table so that all the pictures can be seen. The caller says to the players: "Put your hand on your nose." Players must only play with one hand. The caller could also instruct students to put their left hand behind their back. Check the students are ready by saying: "Are you ready?". The caller says one of the formulaic expressions from the pictures on the cards. Players look at the cards and quickly place their hand on the corresponding card in the centre of the table. The quickest player to place their hand on the card takes the card out of the game and places it in front of them. The caller instructs players to put their hand on their noses again. Repeat until there is only one card remaining. For the final round the caller can say any phrase, but the students must only react to the phrase of the final card. If they slap for the wrong phrase they are disqualified for the rest of that round. The game ends when all the cards have been slapped and removed. Students count their cards in the target language and the player with the most cards is the winner.



TRACKING USE OF FORMULAIC EXPRESSIONS USING A4 PAGE RESOURCE

Give each student the A4 Page resource that they can use as a placemat or to stick in their books. Every time they say one of the phrases on the page during the lesson, they can stick a counter on it or write a tally next to the phrase. This will encourage use of the phrases throughout the lesson.

For more activity ideas scan the QR code to go to the resource Padlet

We hope you enjoy these resources. Please email us at tuituia.languages@auckland.ac.nz if you have any questions.

