

# An Introduction to English Language Teaching

## Second Year 2020-2021

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**First Semester**

**Week 4:**

**Lecture 8:**

- **Setting up Classroom Activities:**
  1. **Seating Arrangement**
  2. **Grouping Students**



## Setting Up Classroom Activities

For EFL/ESL teachers to be able to manage and promote interactive classrooms, they need to know how to arrange a variety of classroom activities. The arrangement of these activities involves two aspects; the students' seating arrangement and ways of students grouping.

Seating arrangements are important classroom setting events because they have the potential to help prevent problem behaviors that decrease student attention and diminish available instructional time. This means that the physical arrangement of the classroom has the potential to encourage desirable behavior or contribute to students' misbehavior. Add to this, certain ways of seating arrangement help create chances for students to use English to communicate meaning, while others decrease collaborative interaction.



# Seating Arrangement

## Traditional Classroom Seating Arrangement

The rows configuration are the traditional lecture setup typically consists of rows of fixed seating. Students face the instructor with their backs to one another. This classroom seating arrangement is historically common in colleges and universities, minimizing student-student communication and largely supporting a “sage on the stage” learning environment. The highest communication interactions between professors and students typically occurs with students in the first row or along the middle of the classroom. Students in back rows are more likely to be less engaged.



# Seating Arrangement

## Groups

Clustering the desks into small groups promotes student-to-student interaction. Students develop skills such as communication, problem solving, collaboration, and more in this arrangement. These clusters offer safe and comfortable environments for students to share ideas. This comfort, however, also lends itself to off-task behavior and large increase in noise level and distractions



# Seating Arrangement

## Circle

Desks or chairs arranged in a circle promote students and encourage all students to participate. Everyone sits in the front row. It also allows the instructor to see everyone from an equal distance and communicate easier with students.

Such an arrangement involves everyone in the group. There is no table in the middle, therefore people are unobstructed and can speak directly to each other. It creates equality among the group, with no designated “leader” position. However, some students may feel uncomfortable or exposed in this type of arrangement.



# Seating Arrangement

## The U Shape

A U-Shaped desk arrangement encourages discussion and makes it easy for the teacher to observe students and provide one on one help. Classroom size and number of students can make it difficult to use, for you may not be able to fit a U-Shape pattern in a small room with a large number of students. The layout spreads students out considerably so that it can be hard to address them all and makes group work harder because the desks can't easily be moved around.



# Grouping Students

The other aspect of setting up classroom activities is how to group students. There are a variety of ways to do this.

1. **Selectively by the teacher:** The teacher can group students with the same characteristics or mix them.

<b>Ability &amp; Experience</b>	<b>Personality</b>
Accurate/Not accurate	Shy/Outgoing
Fluent/Not fluent	Front sitters/Back sitters
Been abroad/Not been abroad	Stone faced/ Smilers
Use computer/Do not use computer	Talkers/ Nontalkers

# Grouping Students

2. Randomly in the class: Teachers can also randomly group students in class without prior arrangement, for example, by having the students count off “One, two, three...” and all one’s form a group, two’s another, and so on.

By Characteristics	By Lottery
Hair color, height, sex	Same flavor ice-cream
age, favorite color,	Same color dot, same first letter
Favorite singer,	Same number, same region