

An Assignment on 'My hand' (Primary 2)

This assignment is given to P.2 students in ELCHK Hung Hom Lutheran Primary School. Its objective is to find out whether students can use modals to talk about ability e.g. 'I can ...' or 'My hand can ...'

A conventional type of assignment is always in the form of guided writing like the following:

Worksheet(2)

Fill in the following blanks:

1. My Hand _____
2. My Hand _____
3. My Hand _____
4. My Hand _____

Students are only required to write down the correct words. Since this is a guided worksheet, students are expected to make everything correct and they have no free room to express themselves. Students in turn just care about the correct answers and they are afraid of making mistakes.

In ELCHK Hung Hom Lutheran Primary School, with the similar objective of finding out whether students can use modals to talk about ability, the teachers have thought of a more personalized way of asking their students to write about what they can do themselves. Instead of a guided worksheet, each student was asked to cut out an outline of a hand. Teachers emphasized that

- (1) It was their own hand and they could tell what they themselves could do with it.
- (2) Students could choose and think of real things they could do with their hands, use their own way of expressions and presentation.

From the students' work, it could be seen that students were able to learn from different input and use language to express their ideas. There was great variation among the assignments, ranging from words extracted from the textbook only, to things students extracted from the readers. This showed that with free room given, students began to transfer their knowledge and make use of whatever they felt fit. A few even found new words to express their own ideas. These were more genuine expressions of students' ideas and they had tried to find their own words to talk about their own experiences. This demonstrated that the students were willing to take risks and they were not afraid of making mistakes in this kind of assignment. In this way, they learn better.



Source of information: ELCHK Hung Hom Lutheran Primary School