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## **Book Review**

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Friedrike Klippel. **KEEP TALKING : COMMUNICATIVE ACTIVITIES FOR LANGUAGE TEACHING.** Cambridge University Press, 1984. Pp. 201.

This 201 page publication is intended to be a source book for teachers. It contains 123 activities, most of which have been developed and tried out in several versions. This book is divided into two main parts: part 1 contains the introduction, the descriptions and the solutions to each activities; part 2, with a cross-reference to the activities in part 1, gives examples of worksheets, an alphabetical table of activities, an index of the language function and the level of the target students. An appendix listing the speech acts for each language function and a bibliography are provided at the end. This book is different from other books of activities in that its content is extremely well-organized. The 123 activities presented are grouped into 13 categories according to type. They are also arranged under three headings: Questions and Answers, Discussions and Decisions and Stories and Scenes. This makes it a lot more convenient for teachers to retrieve or select any activity for use from all the varieties given. The alphabetical table of activities, the index to the language level of the target group students and the list of language functions are very helpful for teachers especially non-native ones when planning their lessons.

As for the activities, though some of them have already been published in other source books, a large number of them have been modified with new worksheets. Still, a lot of practical ideas can be found in the section under the 'Discussions and Decisions.' The NASA game, which is modified version of the Shipwreck, a ranking exercise, or the personality game in which students are told to rank the world personalities based on various criteria can be highly motivating and stimulate a lot of discussion since they relate to our experience and the contemporary world in general.

Whether or not these activities will work in the actual class depends largely on how carefully the students have been prepared and how skillfully the

group activities are managed. A brief guideline on various ways of creating a suitable atmosphere and handling group discussions has been provided. However, with a class of students studying English as a Foreign Language as in Thailand, carefully language preparation is extremely important and some adaptation will probably be necessary. Like other publications of the same type, there seems to be a lack of cohesion in linking one activity to another. However, the author has tried to provide certain kinds of gradation or progression in each group of activities, from relatively simple exercises with predictable structures to more complex ones, thus making it different from other books and rendering it more useful for teachers when selecting activities.

In all, I would say that KEEP TALKING provides a large collection of practical activities for any teacher looking for various ideas to motivate his or her class and to stimulate discussion among the students. It is certainly one of the most useful publications of its kind to appear on the market in recent year and the activities set out therein deserve to become part and parcel of any ESL EFL teacher's arsenal.