



Ideas for the ESL Classroom

There are many ways for ESL teachers to leverage Blue Canoe and the Color Vowel® System to create a successful and effective blended learning experience with outstanding student outcomes.

Build awareness of the Color Vowel system and reminders to practice with Blue Canoe.

Teachers can assign daily or weekly “homework” from Blue Canoe, and then the student will practice with Blue Canoe’s targeted feedback in between classroom sessions. In the classroom, teachers can ask about the “homework”, and consistently use the Color Vowel methodology to help students with the day’s lessons. Here are many ideas to consider!

Feature	Ideas for the ESL classroom
Color it Out!	
Classroom activity	CIO can be assigned as homework. Play 1 or 2 games a day. Notice the words you find challenging or surprising.
User tip	User tip: When it's your turn and you arrive at a pair of words that interests you, spend some time with "help me say my turn" -- listen to it five times, each time closing your eyes to notice the vowel sound flooding. Do not look at the words while this is happening; just listen and use your Open Hand. On the fifth repetition, say the phrase in chorus with the recording (still without looking at the words). Then play your turn like normal and see how it feels!
Classroom activity	Play the hard-copy card game of Color it Out!
Sort it Out!	
Classroom activity or homework	After a lesson/discussion about spelling, SIO can be used to notice and reinforce spelling patterns.
Classroom activity or homework	Brain break or end-of-class challenge: how many rounds can you complete? This can also be played in teams (team mates huddled around one phone)
Classroom activity	If a student finishes a task early, they can play SIO silently while they wait for the group
User tip	User tip: At the end of a round, click "Review words" to see the words you played. Use the Open Hand and flood each list.
Lessons (Sentences)	
Homework	Assign a relevant topic for homework, or have students complete 1 or 2 lessons of their choice each day.
User tip	Microtechnique: When you get feedback that presents a list of words for flooding, play that flood 3 times-- twice with your eyes closed, and a third time while reading and saying the words in

	chorus (all the while using your Open Hand).
User tip	If you are noticing that a certain sound is challenging for you, look for the Language Lesson that focuses on that sound. Also watch the video for that sound.
Videos	
Classroom activity	Yoga videos are a great warmup to get the students into the Color zone before you flood that Color's words from your word wall poster or notebook pages.
Homework	If students are having trouble with a particular Color, they can watch the Yoga video for that Color in the class or at home and practice along.
Classroom activity or homework	The technique videos are a great intro to focus in on an aspect of CV - open hand, moving vs non-moving vowel, stress, etc. Great for warm-ups at the beginning of class or to introduce some speaking activity.
Dictionary	
Classroom activity	The Dictionary should be established as a tool that is used regularly during class to look up words they don't know in a reading passage. In this way, students will naturally turn to the dictionary outside of class.
Classroom activity	Homonyms: Students look up homographs and heteronyms and see how the Color changes (or doesn't) with a change in the meaning (read vs read).
Classroom activity	Word families: When studying word families, students brainstorm all the words related to a root (example 'equal'), look them up, and categorize the different forms on their CVO (RED PEPPER equity, GREEN TEA equal)
Learner tip	Look up a word that you find difficult to pronounce, then play the anchor phrase and the word audio, alternating, five times (just listening), then five more times while saying the word in chorus with the recordings. Use the Open Hand throughout these repetitions. All of this repetition triggers flooding that then transfers to practice.
Learner tip	Look up a word, play the anchor phrase once, then play the word 10 times in quick succession. Let the sound flood over you until the word turns into "music" -- you'll notice the stressed Color Vowel sound along with the change in pitch resulting from stress.
Quiz	
Classroom activity	Students take the quiz before or during class and then the teacher reviews the answers with them as a group
Homework	Do the weekly quiz, then discuss in class what was challenging or surprising.
Profile	
Classroom activity	Create a leaderboard in your classroom and enter top-player stats into the leaderboard every Monday.
Competition / recognition	Recognize the top x students, or all students who have played more than x days (2 or 3 or more times a week) at the end of each month or quarter.