

Hokey Cokey

A video is on this site and also shows valuable ESOL learning outcomes.

A good “best” teaching recording (Black Lace – The Hokey Cokey) can be found at the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=z20qLln3qI8&feature=emb_logo
There is an exciting build up before the 3rd last chorus and a sudden unexpected repeat of the last chorus which students love. Including it, really motivates them.

Learning the Hokey Cokey

The lyrics are: You put your **left arm** in,
Your left arm out,
In out, in out and shake it all about.
You do the Hokey Cokey and you turn about.
That’s what it’s all about.
Repeat for Right arm, Left leg, Right leg and Whole self

Chorus

Oh Oh the Hokey Cokey. (*Action**)
Oh Oh the Hokey Cokey. (*Action**)
Oh Oh the Hokey Cokey. (*Action**)
Knees bend arms stretch Rah Rah Rah

The **Hokey Cokey** action is to hold your hands up palms facing away and move them right, left and back to the centre. The *Action** is to all hold hands and all go to the middle and back out again before the end of the sentence. This is usually two steps forward and two steps back – one foot fall when you reverse.

If you search hokey cokey party or hokey cokey wedding, you will find plenty of examples.

Delivery by teacher

I find the best way is to get the students to repeat all the words, making sure they understand. When the motivation starts to drop, I get them in a circle doing the actions and when the motivation again starts to drop, play the music. I do the actions including mistakes, and show “fear” when they all rush towards me. I allow plenty of time for students to correct each other, such as “wrong leg” or not holding hands. I also monitor pronunciation, timing (e.g. stress timing) and many other things for future teaching. The teacher knows his or her students best, but the things to look for are spontaneous speaking attempts and participation. The students in the sample video were taught in standard timetabled lessons and for the time available for practice, made much more progress than expected. Very high expectations were achieved in a non-stressful way.

The students were performing without music (they did know the song) and very happy improvising. e.g. put your head in, put your bottom in, put your **left elbow** in (quite difficult to match to the tune e.g. **leftel bo**)

There are a few other words in the Black Lace recording so these can be introduced to enthusiast students. They are: “all together now” “wait for it” “oooooooooh” “and that’s that”.

Non-native English speaking teachers wishing to use this material can get further help from johnhkg.com by using the Contact form.