ESL Choice Board

Choice boards can be used in many ways depending on your needs! You can use this as a unit homework assignment where students must complete one activity from each category by the end of the unit. Another option would be to have students complete the entire board throughout your course. Some students will benefit from having smaller deadlines rather than a large project like this getting pushed to the bottom of their to-do list and forgotten about until it is too late to accomplish all these activities. Some teachers even leave choice boards as a sub plan and have students pick one option to complete for that day.

You might choose to trust your students’ word that they completed the speaking activities or you could require some element of proof, whether it be a recording, a written reflection on the experience, or even a note from their parent/guardian.

Tips for using this chart with different skill levels:

* Remind students that they can accomplish these tasks while staying within their level of English.
* For speaking activities, a beginner might choose to sing a children’s song in English, whereas an advanced student might learn to sing a popular song on the radio.
* For listening activities, a beginner will likely want to slow down the audio, turn on subtitles, and select video clips for younger audiences (watch a children’s program rather than a drama). An advanced student will still benefit from slower audio and subtitles, but they can pick higher level material such as a full-length movie.
* For reading activities, a beginner will likely need to read a children’s book with pictures, whereas an advanced student can choose a chapter book.
* For writing activities, a beginner will be writing words and phrases. The more advanced the student, the higher the expectations should be (length of writing, quality of language, etc.).

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| **Speaking** | **Listening** | **Reading** | **Writing** |
| Chat in English with a friend or another English-speaker for 10 minutes or more. | Watch a TV show or movie in English. | Try reading an online English newspaper. | Write a note in English to someone telling them what you like about them. |
| Tell someone about your favorite TV show or movie in English. | Listen to the radio or a podcast in English. | Read a book in English. It could even be a children’s book. | Create a picture book or a cartoon in English. |
| When out in public, speak only using English. | Watch an English athletic match with English commentary! | Change your cell phone or other digital device to English for a day or more. As an alternative, change your social media accounts to English for a day or more. | Write down as many English verbs as you can to describe what you do on an average day. |
| Sing along with a song in English. | Watch the trailer for a movie currently in theaters or coming out soon in English. Write a critique of the movie based on the trailer. | Investigate recipes in English. | Use Scrabble® or Bananagrams® letters, or make your own letter cards, to create a crossword puzzle containing as many English words as you can think of. |
| Learn an English tongue twister. | Complete two English songs on lyricstraining.com. | Read the last 30 English-language tweets from an English-speaking musician, politician, author, etc. | Think about your favorite character from a movie or book.  Create a profile for that character in English. |