**How does group work benefit at English class in schools?**



About 15 years ago at schools in Kazakhstan teachers used traditional methods of teaching such as frontal teaching, where teacher faces the class and explains the new material and learners complete the given tasks on their own. With implementation of Cambridge System at schools in Kazakhstan, teachers have been trained to use new teaching methods and approaches. The main functions of a modern teachers in Kazakhstan are to reveal the abilities of each student, to educate a decent and patriotic person, a person ready for life in a high-tech, competitive world. The task of the teacher is to aid the children become independent, imaginative and self-confident people. It is personality-oriented technologies, one of which is the technology of learning in cooperation, which is also called “group work”.

Group work is one of the innovative teaching methods used on English lessons these days in which students are assigned to small groups and work together on a given task or project. Group work is often used by an English teacher as a strategy for cognitive development, management and leadership development of learners.

Working as an English teacher at intellectual school I have analyzed the advantages and disadvantages of this method. As a result of research, I have discovered that benefits surpass the drawbacks.

Group work is a collaborative process that involves a group of people working together to achieve a common goal. There is a proverb says “Two heads are better than one” in English language. When learners complete the task in a group, they listen to each other’s ideas and share different perspectives, interests, and skills.

One of the main benefits of group work is skill sharing. In some cases, the best way to learn something is by doing it with someone else. When a person practices something with another person, both people learn from each other.

The most effective and productive method of working in a group is considered "brainstorming". This method can be a powerful tool for generating new ideas. Brainstorming in a group can develop learners’ imagination and creativity in the problem-solving process. During brainstorming stage roles are assigned within the group, and students come together and focus on the "problem". Using brainstorming approach can bring numerous benefits for leaners such as promoting teamwork, encouraging creative ideas, providing different perspectives and generating a lot of ideas in a short amount of time. Mind mapping is one of well-known and commonly used techniques of brainstorming. Drawing a mind map helps learners to make them to generate new ideas and engage them in the topic of the lesson.

Nevertheless, there are also some disadvantages of group work. One of them is different level and different speeds of learners. Some students may have difficulties while completing the tasks and be passive, while strong students go too fast. Therefore, the organization of group work requires the teacher to study the material in detail, to compile and analyze techniques for completing tasks carefully. In addition, it is the teacher's responsibility to take into the level of students when giving an assignment in a group.