

## I don't want to!

**Level:** A1.1, A1.2

**Age:** 6-10

**Organization:** whole class

**Aims:** To develop familiarity with classroom language instructions; to listen and respond in a chant to practise saying you don't want to do, or will do something.

**Language focus:** *In the example:* imperatives, classroom language, *want, will*

*Alternatives:* food vocabulary

**Materials:** *Essential:* none/*Optional:* a picture or photo of (very appealing looking) dog, maracas or a tambourine

### Procedure

1. Show the children a picture or photo of a dog or draw one on the board.
2. Explain that you are going to say a chant including classroom language instructions. The children can reject all the instructions by saying *No, I don't want to!* but whenever you give an instruction that refers to the dog, e.g. *Feed/Walk/Stroke/Play with the dog!* They must agree and say: *Yes, I will!*
3. Get the children to practise the responses in chorus a few times. Then do the chant with the whole class. Use maracas or a tambourine or click your fingers to keep the rhythm of the chant.
4. Either use the classroom language instructions below or any others that are familiar to the children and fit the rhythm of the chant. Hold up the photo of the dog in the last line of each verse.

*Sit on your chairs!*

*I don't want to!*

*Open your books!*

*I don't want to!*

*Tidy the class!*

*I don't want to!*

*Walk the dog!*

*Yes, I will!*

*Stand in a line!*

*I don't want to!*

*Put away your pens!*

*I don't want to!*

*Put on your coats!*

*I don't want to!*

*Feed the dog!*

*Yes, I will!*

## Comments and Suggestions

- Children usually enjoy saying *I don't want to!* with gusto in this chant, since this is not how they are usually expected or able to respond in the classroom.
- If appropriate, you may like to talk to the children, either in English or in L1, about how none of us always want to do things that we have to do, and that it's fine to express this, even though we may not always be able to avoid doing them.
- With older children, it may be appropriate to ask them to work in groups and think of three more classroom language instructions to include in the chant. The groups can then take turns to come to the front of the class and do their verse of the chant with the whole class.
- An alternative version of this chant can be done with food vocabulary. For example, children can reject all kinds of fruit and vegetables and only say yes to chips, e.g. *Eat your peas! I don't want to! Eat your chips! Yes, I will!*
- Children are likely to transfer language from the chant to the classroom. This may give you an opportunity to find out why children do not want to do particular things and you can use their responses to reevaluate, although not necessarily change, what you ask them to do.