The language experience approach is a powerful way to combine speaking, reading and writing by using students' own language as the source text. Using **Google Forms** makes this method even more interactive: you collect authentic responses in real time, visualise class data with built-in graphs and turn student answers into meaningful reading and speaking prompts.

# What is the language experience approach?

At its core the approach relies on **interactive writing**. Ask questions, students respond and then use those responses as text for further activities. This creates a cycle where input, output and visual scaffolds feed each other: learners speak, the class sees the language, and then the same language is used for reading, pronunciation practice and follow-up tasks.

# Why use Google Forms?

- **Fast collection** of authentic student answers — everyone can contribute at once.
- **Immediate visuals** — Forms creates response summaries and charts automatically, which are perfect for class discussion.
- **Flexible question types** — short answers, multiple choice, checkboxes and scales let you target vocabulary, numbers and preferences.
- **Easy to reuse and adapt** — export to Sheets, edit aggregated responses and build new activities from the same data.

# Step-by-step: a simple family-themed activity

This activity uses a short family survey to generate text for speaking and reading practice.

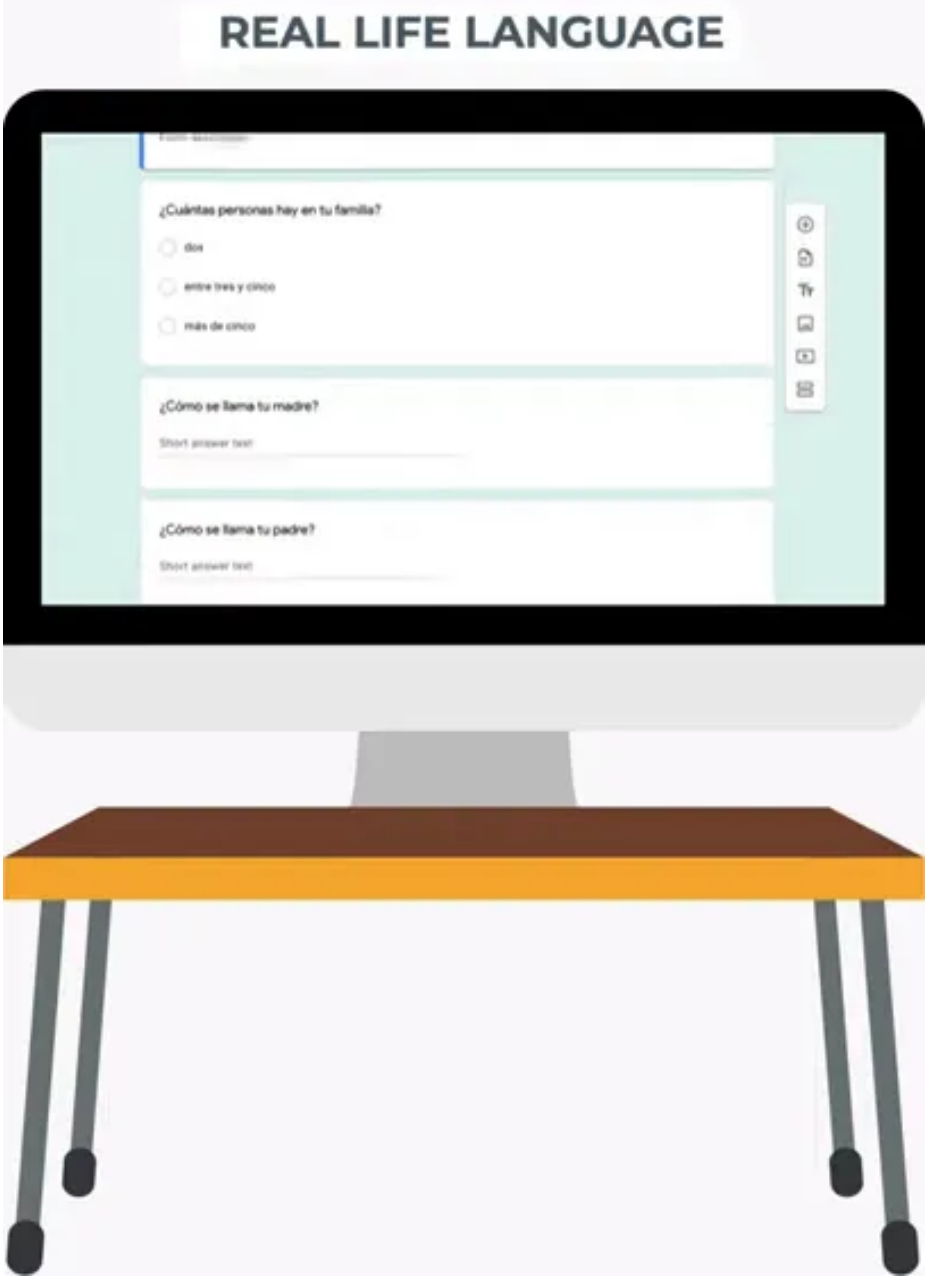
1. **Design a short form**

   Create 4–6 quick questions about family, for example: How many people are in your family? Who lives with you? Do you have siblings? Provide a mix of short-answer and multiple-choice questions so you get both numeric data and open responses.

2. **Launch it live with the class**

   Share the form link or display a QR code. As students submit, start an **interactive writing** session: write key sentences or vocabulary on the board that reflect typical answers. This builds a shared text the class can read together.

# Create Language Experience Approach Activities in Google



3. **Use the responses as prompts**

   Turn students’ answers into speaking prompts: ask learners to expand on their own responses, ask follow-up questions to classmates and model full-sentence answers. Responses can also become a short class text to read aloud or highlight grammar and vocabulary.

4. **Show the data**

   Open the Responses tab to reveal charts — for example, the distribution of family sizes. Use those graphs to spark comparison questions and quick comprehension tasks.

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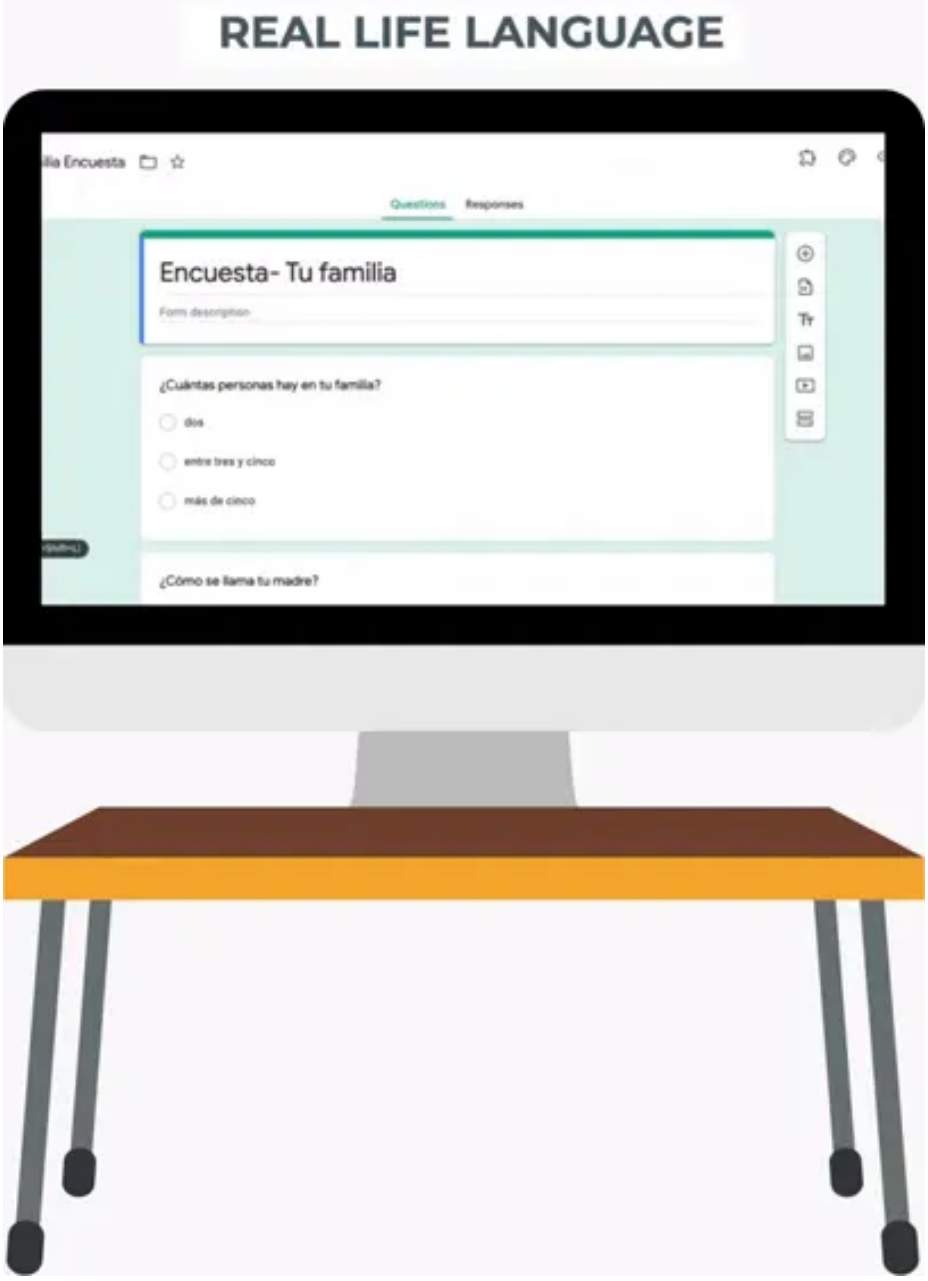

5. **Extend the activity**

   Move responses into Google Sheets to sort, filter and create custom visuals. Use the collected sentences to build a reading passage, gap fills or pronunciation drills.

# Practical tips and variations

- **Differentiate** by offering simpler question wording and more open prompts as appropriate.
- **Pair and share** — have learners discuss their form answers in pairs before reporting back to the class.
- **Visual support** — add images or icons to slides that match common responses to help comprehension.
- **Use charts for language tasks** — ask students to write sentences comparing groups shown in the graphs (e.g., “More students have two siblings than three”) or you create these together as a class.
- **Save and recycle** — keep collected responses to build a class corpus for future vocabulary and grammar work.

# Quick classroom-ready prompts

- Count and compare: “How many people live in your house?”
- Describe: “Who lives with you? Describe one family member.”
- Opinion follow-up: “Would you like a bigger family? Why or why not?”

Using Google Forms with a language experience approach turns spoken classroom language into tangible reading and speaking resources. The instant visuals and data make the activity engaging and meaningful, while the student-generated text ensures learning stays relevant to the class. Try a short family survey as a starter and adapt the same format for hobbies, daily routines or school life.

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