Classroom language

The following is a selection of useful phrases that you could introduce into your lessons to accustom your pupils to hearing and understanding English.

Starting the lesson
Good morning (everyone).
Good afternoon (everyone).
Hello (everyone).
Who is away/absent today?
Let’s start!

Ending the lesson.
That’s all for now/for today.
Let’s stop now.
OK. You can go now.
Put your books/things away.
See you on [day].
Have a nice weekend/holiday.
Goodbye.

During the lesson
Get out your books.
Open your books at page (10).
Turn to page (10).
Look at exercise 1 on page (10).
Look at line 3/picture 3.
Let’s say it together.
All together!
This row/group...
Your turn.
Say it again (please).
The whole sentence, please.
Louder, please.
Now you ask.
Who knows the answer?
In English, please.
What’s ... in English?
What is the (L1) for ‘try’?
What is it in (L1)?
Collect the books, please.
Give me your homework, please.
Give everyone one of these.

Reading
Can you read this/that?
Anna, you read Beth.
Who can read this sentence?
Go on, Sanchez.
Say it after me.

Writing
Write this/that in your ET books.
Copy this/that in your books.
Who wants to write that on the board?
How do you spell this/that?
What’s missing here?
Is that right?

Acting
Let’s act that.
You are Joe.
Read Beth’s part, Anna.
Who wants to be Emma?
You can be the reader, Sanchez.
Come and stand here.

Partners
You’re Anna’s partner.
Who’s your partner?
Has everyone got a partner?
Work with your partner.
Sit back-to-back.
Don’t show your partner.
Change places (with Anna).
Change your partner.

Games
Are you ready?
Whose turn is it?
Take it in turns.
You’re next.
Start now.
Guess!
It’s time to stop.
Everyone stop now.
Have you finished?
Who has finished?

General
Come here.
Go back to your place/desks.
Stand up (everyone).
Sit down.
Hands up/down.
Hurry up.
Quick.
Close the door, please.
Open the window, please.
Turn on/off the lights.
Come in.
Wait.
Just a minute.

Keeping order
Quiet, please.
Stop talking/playing.
Shh!
Don’t do that, please.
Stop that.
Don’t be silly.
Give that to me, please.

Praise and encouragement
Try (again).
That’s (much) better.
Good.
Fine.
Very good.
That’s very nice.
It’s all right – don’t worry.

Thanks and apologies
Thanks.
Thank you.
Sorry.
Sorry I’m late.
Sorry? (=not hearing)
I’m sorry, I don’t understand.

Pupils’ language
Here are some useful phrases you can encourage your pupils to say in English:

Me!
What page/exercise is it?
What did you say?
I don’t know.
I/We don’t understand (this word)
I/We’ve finished. I/We haven’t finished.
Shall I help him/her?
Can I go to the toilet, please?