

Techniques and Activities for Self-directed Language Learners

by Carol J. Orwig(1)

Sandra G. Wimbish(2)

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Summary

This book contains detailed descriptions of techniques and activities you can use to learn a second language by working with speakers of the language. Each technique has a detailed description of the objectives of the technique, the guidelines to follow, and the procedure to use. These techniques can be helpful to you in developing your own language learning program or supplementing a language school.

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Introduction to techniques and activities

Introduction to techniques and activities

We have put together a collection of language learning techniques and activities you can use to build your language skills with the help of one or more native speakers of the language you want to learn. We have used the term *technique* to refer to procedures with sequenced steps as distinct from less structured *activities*. Most of the *activities* (and a few of the techniques) assume that the learner is living in a community where the target

language is spoken.

See also

- Keywords: activities for language learning, techniques for language learning

OVERVIEW

Index of techniques

Introduction

This module group contains listings of techniques, according to the type of skills they help to develop.

In this module group

Here are the modules on index of techniques:

- Techniques for improving pronunciation
- Techniques for developing grammatical accuracy
- Index to grammatical structures you can learn through comprehension techniques
- Techniques for building vocabulary
- Techniques for learning discourse structures
- Techniques for practicing communicative functions
- Techniques for learning appropriate varieties
- Techniques for learning interactional skills
- Techniques for building cultural understanding

See also

- Keywords: techniques for language learning

Techniques for improving pronunciation

Description

Here are some techniques to use to improve your pronunciation. Some techniques are for single sounds that are problem areas. Others focus on comparing several sounds you have trouble distinguishing. Still others help you work on features such as tone, stress, and intonation.

Objectives

Here are some pronunciation objectives you can work on with these techniques:

- To be able to distinguish when your pronunciation differs from that of a mother tongue speaker
- To improve the production of sounds that are difficult for you

Techniques

Here are the techniques to use to improve pronunciation:

- The Intonation Drill technique
- The Record and Compare technique
- The Record for Correction technique
- The Single Sound Drill technique
- The Sound Contrast Drill technique
- The Stress Pattern Drill technique
- The Tone Pattern Drill technique

See also

- Keywords: accuracy, pronunciation, techniques for language learning

Techniques for developing grammatical accuracy

Description

Any technique or method that gives you exposure to a broad variety of grammatical structures, such as the Total Physical Response techniques or the Text-based techniques, will help you acquire structures and, with enough exposure, should improve your accuracy. The following techniques, however, will help you isolate and work on developing grammatical accuracy with specific structures.

See: Index to grammatical structures you can learn through comprehension techniques for ideas on how to practice specific structures.

Techniques

Here are some techniques to use to develop grammatical accuracy:

- The Clause Type Practice technique
- The Part of Speech Placement technique
- The Single Sentence Pattern Practice technique
- The Structure Contrast Drill technique
- The System Drill technique
- The Tense Practice technique

See also

- Keywords: accuracy, grammar, techniques for language learning

Index to grammatical structures you can learn through comprehension techniques

Introduction

In "Kick-starting your language learning," Greg Thomson gives suggestions for how to use comprehension-based language learning techniques, such as Total Physical Response and Photo Book techniques to learn to comprehend a variety of grammatical structures. Thomson has deliberately used a nontechnical vocabulary in referring to grammatical structures, so as not to intimidate language learners who are not familiar with that technical vocabulary.

It may sometimes be helpful, however, to be able to associate a technical term with what Thomson is talking about. For example, if a learner is in language school and is studying the imperfect aspect (in some languages called the imperfect tense), it might be helpful to be able to refer to "Kick-starting your language learning" for ideas on how to do extra practice outside of class by working with a language helper.

Description

This index lists the technical names of grammatical terms with links to the section in which they are discussed by Thomson in "Kick-starting your language learning."

Grammatical structures

- Identificational clauses
- Descriptive clauses
- Noun phrases
- Imperatives
- Active clauses
- Intransitive clauses
- Transitive clauses
- Direct objects
- Subject pronouns
- Indirect objects
- Benefactives
- Location phrases
- Possessors and possession
- Instruments
- Source
- Manner
- Past tenses
- Future tenses
- Imperfective aspect
- Time words
- Passive voice
- Interrogatives
- Subjunctive mood
- Optative mood
- Negation

- Inchoative
- Complex sentences
- Compound sentences
- Relative clauses
- Temporal clauses
- Reason clauses
- Conditional clauses
- Concessive clauses
- Purpose clauses
- Causative constructions
- Comparatives
- Superlatives
- Indirect speech

Techniques for building vocabulary

Description

Any technique that gives you exposure to language you can understand will help you build vocabulary. The techniques listed here are particularly good for building up your comprehension vocabulary.

Techniques

These are the techniques to use to build vocabulary:

- The Dialogue techniques
- The Discovering Categories technique
- The Interview techniques
- The Look and Listen techniques
- The Text Portfolio technique
- The Total Physical Response techniques

See also

- Keywords: techniques for language learning, vocabulary
-

Techniques for learning discourse structures

Techniques

Here are the techniques to use to learn discourse structures:

- The Text Analysis technique
- The Text Portfolio technique
- The Write and Rewrite technique

See also

- Keywords: discourse, techniques for language learning
-

Techniques for practicing communicative functions

Techniques

Here are the techniques to practice communicative functions:

- The Dialogue techniques
- The Survival Phrases technique

See also

- Keywords: communicative functions, techniques for language learning
-

Techniques for learning appropriate varieties

Description

These techniques will help you learn what varieties of language are appropriate to different communication situations and purposes.

Techniques

Here are the techniques to learn appropriate varieties of language:

- The Dialogue techniques
- The Handling Idioms technique
- The Text Portfolio technique
- The Write and Rewrite technique

See also

- Keywords: techniques for language learning, varieties of speech

Techniques for learning interactional skills

Techniques

Here are techniques to learn interactional skills:

- The Dialogue techniques
- The Interview techniques

See also

- Keywords: interactional skills, techniques for language learning

Activities for self-directed language learners

Techniques for building cultural understanding

Techniques

Here are techniques to build understanding of the cultural framework:

- The Dialogue techniques
- The Discovering Categories technique
- The Interview techniques
- The Picture Descriptions technique
- The Text Analysis technique

- The Text Portfolio technique

See also

- Keywords: culture learning, techniques for language learning

Endnotes

1 (Popup - Popup)

Carol J. Orwig is an SIL International Trainer for language and culture acquisition. She served as the coordinator for language learning training within the Academic training section of Academic Affairs of SIL International (Dallas, TX 1992–1999). Prior to taking this position she did fieldwork in Mexico and Cameroon. She has been with SIL since 1973. She has frequently taught courses in second language acquisition in Dallas, Oregon, England, Cameroon and Mexico. She received an M A in linguistics from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1986.

2 (Popup - Popup)

Sandra G. Wimbish developed online helps for the Language Learning and Linguistics bookshelves of Lingualinks. She has been a member of SIL since 1986 and did fieldwork in Indonesia. She received an MA in Linguistics from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1991.