

You Read, They Complete or Correct

Level elementary to lower intermediate
Materials none

- 1 Once the students have dealt with some of the difficulties in the reading text in the current unit, tell them you are going to read the passage to them, stopping every now and then for them to finish the phrase.
- 2 Tell the students to close their coursebooks. Read the passage to them three times, stopping at different points. Where you stop is where their attention will focus, so you can get them thinking about grammar, link words, collocations, depending on your aims in this lesson.

Variation

Tell the students you are going to read the text to them continuously, but this time with some words wrong. They should interrupt immediately and correct you. For example, if the text says 'she grabs his arm' you mis-read 'she grabs his leg', etc. Teenage students love this.

Acknowledgement: I learnt this idea from Robert O'Neill in 1971, when his book *Kernel Lessons Intermediate* (Longman, 1971), fell from heaven into my hands. It was a Godsend.

Grammar I Like

Level elementary to advanced (At elementary level, the students do the activity in L1.)
Materials sheets of paper / notebooks

- 1 Pair the students and ask them to go back over the last five to six units in the coursebook and pick out all the different grammar patterns they have been exposed to. Give them ten minutes.
- 2 Ask one student to come to the board and take dictation from the other students. They shout out the example sentences they have picked out.
- 3 When the board is full of example sentences, ask each student to pick out two they like and two they dislike.
- 4 Ask each student to come to the board and put a cross next to the two they dislike and a tick next to the two they like.
- 5 Choose the sentences with the most crosses and ticks and ask the students who marked them to explain why.

NOTE: When this idea of liking or disliking a grammar pattern was first published in *Grammar Games* (Rinvolucri M, Cambridge, 1984), I was amazed at the ability of students to like or dislike a particular foreign language form, but such feelings are very much there in many people.

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"Humanising your coursebook."

Activities to bring your classroom

to life" by Mario Rinvolucri.

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