


LITERACY COALITION OF CENTRAL TEXAS




LITERACY
FORWARD

ENGLISH FORWARD: WHAT WORKS IN 1 TO 1 TUTORING


MODULE 2

COMPREHENSIBLE INPUT | SPEAK SO YOUR STUDENTS UNDERSTAND

INTRODUCTION



OVERVIEW



1. Comprehensible Input: Speak so Students Understand
2. German Demonstration Lesson: Heide in Africa
3. How the Brain Learns Another Language
4. Making Learning Visible: Storyboarding and Chalk Talk
5. Tips for Tutors
6. Graphic Organizers
7. Points to Remember
8. Resources

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COMPREHENSIBLE INPUT: SPEAK
SO STUDENTS UNDERSTAND




KEY ELEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIBLE INPUT

1. Information is presented in a way that a student understands.
2. Visuals (photographs, graphics, illustrations, video) support what is presented.
3. Objects act as a reference for learning.
4. Graphic organizers show relationship between ideas.
5. Language is well paced and slightly above the current level of the learner.
6. The tutor and the student work together to "negotiate meaning."

HEIDE IN AFRIKA
GERMAN DEMONSTRATION



REFLECTION | WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS?



1. How did you feel?
2. Did you understand anything? If so, what? If not, why not?
3. What made the story hard to understand?
4. What may be better ways to introduce a new language?

HEIDE IN AFRIKA
(SPOKEN WORDS & PICTURES)

Guten Tag. Das bin ich, Heide, in Afrika.



Ich war an der Duha Schule in 2014.



Das sind die Kinder von der Duha Schule.
3000 Kinder gehen auf diese Schule.



Ein Haus in Ruanda in der Naehe der Duha Schule.



Ruanda ist ein kleines Land in der Mitte von Afrika. Uganda ist im Norden and die Demokratische Republik Kongo ist im Westen von Ruanda. Siehst Du Somalia und Aethiopien?



Die Hauptstadt von Ruanda ist Kigali. Die Nationalsprachen sind Kinyrwanda, Englisch, Swahili und Franzoesisch.



Das bin ich in der Mitte mit 5 Kindern.
Die Kinder gehen mit mir zu der Duha Schule.



Das bin ich wieder in der Mitte. Rechts ist ein Mann, Professor Antoine
und links ist ein Schueler, Paulin.



In Akagera, dem Nationalpark von Ruanda gibt es viele wilde Zebras.
Die Zebras sind weiss und haben schwarze Streifen.



Im Nationalpark kannst du auch Giraffen sehen. Die Giraffen haben lange Haelse.
Das ist eine Mamagiraffe und ein Baby.



Die Kinder in ganz Afrika lieben Fussball.
Die Kinder an der Duha Schule auch.



Und die Kinder lieben Elektronik. Sie sind von meinem iPhone fasziniert.



Alle Kinder lernen Englisch. Sie lieben Amerika.
Alles prima! Sagt der junge Mann. Alles ist ok.



REFLECTION | WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS?



1. How did you feel? Were you into it? Did you feel lost or anxious?
2. What made things hard to understand?
3. What made it easier?
4. Did you gain any insights into how German works?
5. As a language learner, what would you want to learn next?

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HOW THE BRAIN LEARNS ANOTHER LANGUAGE

HEIDE IN RUANDA

Guten Tag. Ich heisse Heide. Im Sommer 2014 war ich in Ruanda, in Afrika. Ich war an der Duha Schule. 3000 Kinder gehen auf die Duha Schule. Alle lernen Englisch. Ruanda ist ein kleines Land in der Mitte von Afrika. Die Hauptstadt ist Kigali und die Nationalsprachen sind Englisch, Kinyarwanda, Swahili und Franzoesisch.

In Akagera, dem Nationalpark von Ruanda gibt es viele wilde Tiere: Zebras und auch Giraffen. Die Zebras sind weiss und haben schwarze Streifen.

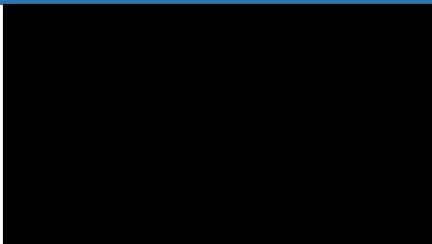
Die Kinder in Ruanda lieben Fussball und sie lieben auch Elektronik, besonders das iPhone. Die Kinder sagen: "Alles ist prima - alles ist ok."

THE LANGUAGE LEARNING BRAIN AT WORK



1. The brain is in constant search for meaning and tries to make sense any way it can.
2. The brain constantly makes associations between the language it knows and the language it is trying to learn.
3. The bilingual brain is always ready to translate but also suppresses the language system not needed at the moment.

HOW YOUR BRAIN LEARNS ANOTHER LANGUAGE: ONE EXAMPLE




We don't endorse any products but we like the way this animation explains the importance of focusing on oral language for beginners.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GLAM5Z0loEM>

GIVING THE BRAIN A CHANCE TO COMPREHEND


SLOW DOWN - YOU MOVE TOO FAST

1. Slow down but don't drag words out artificially.
2. When you talk or read something aloud, pause after each sentence for 3 seconds so your student's brain gets a chance to catch up.
3. Do not speak artificially slow - enunciating every word precisely gets in the way of comprehension.
4. Pause after a phrase for a second or two.



SHOW - DON'T TELL

1. Connect visual and auditory information.
2. Act things out and dramatize.
3. Use pictures and draw processes, events and sequences.
4. Encourage your students to draw and ask them questions about their drawings
5. Use videos to make ideas come alive.



This Rap song by ELL-T-Funk shows vocabulary and illustrates verb tenses.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xXfyr6CB7M>

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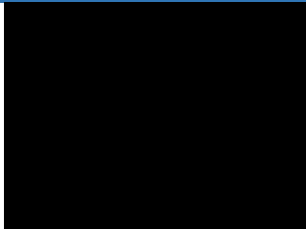
MAKING LEARNING VISIBLE:
STORYBOARDING AND CHALK TALK

STEPS FOR CREATING STORYBOARDS

1. Explain that storyboarding means demonstrating a process using a sequence of pictures.
2. Find out what your student's talents are. Encourage her to demonstrate a task she knows well and draw pictures.
3. Invite the student to add captions to each square.
4. Work together to write up a set of illustrated directions to share with others.



ROSA DOES CHALK TALK

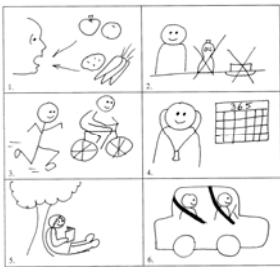


Rosa, the teacher, draws a Chalk Talk to explain how her parents came to the US. She then invites her students to do the same.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BhdOmMAwHuk>

REFLECTION ON STORYBOARDS
AND CHALK TALK

REFLECTION | HOW COULD YOU USE CHALK TALK?



1. Can you see yourself using Chalk Talk or story boarding in 1 to 1 tutoring?
2. How would you adapt what Rosa did with her class?
3. What events or processes could you demonstrate and ask your student to draw?

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MORE TIPS FOR TUTORS

CHANGE THE PACE

1. Mix up your activities and allow for silence in between.
2. Bring in some beautiful photographs or some art work and look at it together.
3. Select some interesting videos that don't have much language.
4. Play some music and allow for quiet time.
5. Share what you enjoy.



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GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

SEMANTIC MAP AND T-CHART



This simple Semantic Map can be used for brainstorming ideas related to a single topic.

Western New Year	Chinese New Year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 1 • New Year's resolutions • Dropping ball 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring festival • Zodiac signs • Dragon parade

A T-Chart allows a student to compare and contrast characteristics. The chart allows you to take notes on ideas that emerge from a discussion.

KEY IDEAS IN THIS MODULE



1. Use photographs to tell a story and get information across.
2. Link visual information and multimedia with print to help the brain make connections.
3. Pace your language as you speak to facilitate comprehension.
4. Illustrate events and processes using chalk talk and storyboards.
5. Use graphic organizers to capture ideas students generate.

REFLECTION | COMPREHENSIBLE INPUT



1. Which of the strategies in this Module make most sense to you?
2. Which do you already use and which would you like to learn more about?
3. Which seem most appropriate for working with a student in your program?
4. Which new strategies are you most excited about?



POINTS TO REMEMBER

The brain needs to work hard to process language. Keep explanations simple. Find the right pace and take advantage of photographs and illustrations. Keep in mind that integrating video and audio can help the brain work at optimum and don't forget to use graphic organizers.

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RESOURCES

Video Resources

1. A video clip that shows Rosa speaking so her students can understand.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yMpMFzKDHk>
2. A video of a mini-lecture on Comprehensible Input.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mInHonxao7O>
The lecture includes listening strategies you may want to try with your students.

Print Resources

3. An article that outlines key issues to consider when teaching ESL students.
www.urbanschools.org/pdf/understanding_ell.pdf
4. Chalk Talks, a handbook on storyboarding is one of our favorites.
Shapiro and Genser (2010) *Chalk Talks* (available on Amazon)
