Video Recipes to Spice Up Grammar Learning

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Workshop Objectives:

- Discuss the rationale behind the use of video technology in the classroom
- Demonstrate interactive activities using video to support grammar instruction in the language classroom
What video CAN’T do for you . . .

- It can’t teach your classes.
- Video is a tool, not a method.
- We often do not capture video’s potential because we reduce activities to drill-and-practice exercises.
Erecting the Scaffolding for Structured Language Study

One activity builds upon another and tasks are clearly defined.
What video can do for you . . .

- It can encourage critical-thinking skills.

- Logical reasoning isn’t something we are born with; it must be nurtured, encouraged, and developed through structured classroom activities.
Critical-Thinking Skills

- Traditional exercises only encourage students to give pre-determined feedback (e.g., What's the man's name?, What is he wearing?)
- Focus should be on meaning and new messages, not simply form.
Promoting Critical Thinking

Progress from finding the gist of the conversation, to main ideas, to critical-thinking skills where students construct meaning on their own.

- Clarifying
- Hypothesizing
- Comparing - Contrasting
- Discussing Cause -Effect Relationships
- Dispelling Illogical Reasoning
- Inferring
I can’t get my students to talk...

- Is the task worthwhile, interesting, and engaging?
- Is there any connection to real-life tasks?
- Can students see you are sold on the idea and believe it can work?
What video can do for you . . .

- It can encourage critical-thinking skills.
- *Its multidimensional nature can reach students with different learning styles.*
- *It can help students identify and dismantle stereotypes.*
- *It can give students opportunities to practice their language skills in a comprehensive environment.*
General Suggestions: *Before Class*

- Identify objectives and outcomes.
- Preview the video before you show it.
- Understand copyright law that governs each form of video.
- Select manageable segments of video for your class.
- Think of pre-listening questions that probe students’ understanding and pique their interest in the activity.
- Make sure your equipment is working.
General Suggestions: During Class

- Begin with pre-listening activities.
- Maximize the features of your media player, particularly the pause button.
- Use a variety of exercises that cause students to reflect on, summarize, or form opinions about the content they view.
General Suggestions: At the End of Class

- Provide closure with a Post-Listening activity.
- Assess students abilities in relationship to the objectives of the lesson.
- Make sure assessment tools reflect real-life tasks.
Video Demonstration Activities

• Grammar Focus and Objectives: To review and recycle two target grammar structures:

- Present and Past Modals of Possibility and Obligation

- Real and Unreal Conditionals
Assessment

1. **Grammar Competence**: Uses grammar accurately with variety? Adequate vocabulary?
   - Pronunciation of pre-determined areas (word reductions, rhythm, specific sounds, etc.)

1. **Functional Competence**: Answers the question completely?

2. **Strategic Competence**: Can use repair language with conversation breaks down? Makes use of feedback expressions?

3. **Sociolinguistic Competence**: Uses language appropriate to the situation?