

ESL Developmental Continuum P–10

Teaching strategy – Listening cloze

Focuses on

Speaking Listening Reading Writing

Most useful for students at stages

A1 A2 BL B1 B2 B3 SL S1 S2 S3 S4

Purpose of this activity

It can be used for checking of vocabulary learning, or of content knowledge.

How this helps ESL students in particular

- It is an enjoyable and motivating activity, especially when songs are used.
- It requires only a limited response to listening, rather than an extensive response.
- The procedure can be adapted to a variety of content areas.

Procedure

For one type of listening cloze, the students have a text with some words deleted – as in a regular cloze activity. However, rather than deleting every nth word, as in grammatical cloze, this activity will tend to target particular vocabulary.

For example, as part of a secondary school unit on politics, the teacher might use a song such as 'The Logical Song' by Supertramp. All the adjectives could be deleted – radical, logical, liberal, etc. – and students asked to listen carefully to the song, a number of times, in order to fill in the blanks.

In a variation, the text to which the students listen has gaps, represented by either silence or the word 'buzz'. The students write down what word they think might go in the gap. This is best done by the teacher reading aloud, and being able to gauge when the students are ready to move on, rather than using a pre-recorded text.

Acknowledgments/reference

Ur, P. (1991). *A course in language teaching: Practice and theory*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.