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**