

ELP: Classroom activity to Increase Learner Autonomy

Target group: Language learners at any level, participating in a language course - all languages

Language(s): Material in English - applies for all languages

Title: Increasing learner autonomy in Language Classes

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Goal: To increase the learner autonomy of the participants of a language course.

Group size: 5 -10 students

Material: Checklists according to the level of the students

Time needed: 120 minutes

Description:

1. The participants are asked to fill in the Checklists, corresponding to their learning level, individually.
2. The participants choose 1 or 2 descriptors they have marked with a 3 (*I would like to learn this*) or with a 2 (*I would like to improve this*) from among the descriptors in the Checklists.
3. The teacher encourages them to choose descriptors which are not covered in a course book (for example: "*to be able to follow detailed instructions to get from A to B*" is usually covered in a text book, but not - "*to be able to write a condolence letter*")
4. People who chose the same descriptor(s) build pairs. If this does not apply, the teacher builds pairs in a preferred way.
5. Participants are given the chosen descriptor as a learning goal. Their assignment is to find out a way to be able to do the described task. They have to imagine they are alone (in pairs) at home and want to learn to do what the descriptor says. How would they go about it? Where would they search for material? How would they know when they have succeeded (assessment)? How could they practice the newly-acquired knowledge?
6. The teacher has to be very supportive and helpful, without being too controlling. The participants should be able to develop creative and compensatory strategies.
7. Presentation in groups of four with critical analysis from the listeners. *If this was my learning goal, would I be able to learn it in this way?*
8. Presentation of their goals and results in plenary.