

# Language Learning Strategies



Sara Cotterall, PhD

Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand

[Sara.Cotterall@gmail.com](mailto:Sara.Cotterall@gmail.com)

# Language Learning Strategies

- What are language learning strategies?
- Why are they the teacher's best friend?
- How can you introduce strategies to your learners?
- Designing a strategy-based activity to use with your learners



# Activity One

1. Think about your own language learning experiences.
2. What was one of your biggest difficulties (remembering vocabulary? pronouncing sounds? overcoming shyness? ...)
3. What action did you take to overcome this difficulty?
4. Share your experience with your group members.
5. Choose someone to report back for your group.

# Activity Two

1. Look at the four benefits listed on the previous slide.
2. Rank order them according to which is most likely to persuade you to incorporate strategies, and which is least likely.
3. Share your ranking with others in your group. Be prepared to justify your choice.
4. Choose someone from your group to report back on your discussion.

# Activity Three

Given your teaching context, which option for introducing strategies would you adopt, and why?

- Have a discussion about the importance of language learning strategies.
- Administer a language learning strategies questionnaire.
- Demonstrate a useful strategy to the class, then give learners the opportunity to try it out, and later discuss their experience.
- Ask learners to complete a task in which you have “embedded” a strategy in the task instructions. After they finish, ask them to reflect on if and how it helped them.

# Activity Four

Work in pairs or as a group to design ONE strategy-based resource to use with your students on Monday. Possibilities include:

1. Design a short language learning questionnaire.
2. Design a strategy guide – (e.g. Guessing from context). Explain how and when to use the strategy, why it is important, and provide examples.
3. Design the instructions for a familiar language activity (e.g. reading a text in English) and revise the instructions so that you embed one or more useful strategies.
4. Anything else that might be useful!