

CLTask: Seven Step Listening

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Activity Outline

Topic	Seven Step Listening can be used with various topics and sound files.
Learning Aims	To help students improve their listening levels, to learn new vocabulary and to revise vocabulary. This can be done regularly — or simply the first 3 steps alone can be a fast starter to any lesson.
Materials	A sound file of about 2-3 minutes.

Stage	Procedure	Time mins.
Preparation	Chose 9 words from the sound file, 5 new ones, 4 to be revised, don't share these with the students yet. A sound file from past exam papers are good for this.	5
Presentation	Ask the students to have pen and paper ready. Stick to writing in pinyin for beginners as it will slow down the process to write characters.	2
Practice	<p>Step 1. 'Bathe in the language:' Ask the students to relax and listen to the sound file. Tell them not to worry about doing anything, just listen – they can have their eyes closed if they prefer.</p> <p>Step 2. 'Butterfly net:' Ask the students to 'catch' words that they recognize and jot them down in pinyin. Play the sound file again and share the words they've collected on the white board, or in small groups / pairs.</p> <p>Step 3. 'Focussed listening:' On the whiteboard, list the 9 words you want them to listen out for, ask them to make some sort of response when they hear the words e.g. tap their pens on the desk, click their fingers. Play the sound file again.</p>	15 – 20 mins.

	<p>Step 4. ‘Noughts and crosses:’ Ask them to draw a noughts-and-crosses grid* and write each of the 9 words in any order in the grids. Play the sound file again, when they hear the word they cross it out, the first person to get a line calls out ‘bingo.’</p> <p><i>(If you do this activity regularly and they get wise to it, they will start writing the words in the right order so they get a line straightaway. You can subvert this by making them write grids and then you get them all to swap grids.)</i></p> <p>Step 5. Ask them what they think the passage is about, and what kind of questions might be asked about it. This can be done as a whole class or pair activity.</p> <p>Step 6. Give them three or four multiple choice questions in English about the passage — if you are using a sound file from an exam, just use the page from the exam. Play the sound file again.</p> <p>Step 7. Review their answers.</p> <p><i>In all, the students will have listened to the sound file 5 times, the kind of repetition that helps embed language. Each time there is a slightly different activity which helps to keep their attention.</i></p>	
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* Noughts-and-crosses grid -

