

Activity Type

Listening, speaking and writing activity, pair work

Focus

Grammar and spelling

Listening

Aim

To listen to a text and write it down.

Preparation

Prepare five pieces of A4 paper. Draw one media control symbol on each piece of paper. You will need to draw stop, pause, play, fast forward and rewind.

Level

Elementary (A1-A2)

Time

20 minutes

Introduction

Here is an enjoyable ESL dictation activity for young students. You have to work quite hard in this activity, but the results are worth it.

Procedure

Divide the students into pairs.

One student is the 'reader' and the other is the 'writer'.

Stand outside the classroom with the text you want to dictate.

On the floor in front of you, place the five media control symbols.



The readers run to you, stand on the 'play' symbol and you begin to read the text.

When the students have remembered the first sentence, they stand on 'pause', run back into the class and tell their partner who writes the sentence down.

Readers are not allowed to write anything down.

As the dictation progresses, students will be pressing all kinds of buttons to go back and forth through the text as students normally work at a different pace from each other.

When the students are halfway through, have them swap roles.

Add in fast forward and rewind sound effects as a bit of fun. You should act like a media player only reacting when someone presses the controls. Hopefully, students will remember to press stop.

When the students have finished, go through the text together as a class and have the students check for grammar or spelling mistakes.