

Activity Type

Reading, writing, listening and speaking activity, pair work

Focus

Listening, grammar and spelling

Aim

To listen and write down a text that is very hard to hear.

Preparation

Create a text and divide it into equal parts.

You can split the text in half or multiple parts. However you divide the text, number each part according to its correct sequence.

Make one copy of the text for each pair of students.

Level

Any

Time

20 minutes

Introduction

In this amusing ESL dictation, students dictate a text to a partner by whispering.

Procedure

Divide the students into pairs (Student A and B).

Arrange the chairs so there are two rows of seats facing each other. Make the space between the two rows quite big if possible. The pairs sit opposite each other.

Example:

A <-----> B

A <-----> B

A <-----> B

A <-----> B

Give a different part of the text to each row. For example, row A might have the first half of the text and row B the second half.

Student A starts by whispering the first part of their text to Student B who listens and writes what they think their partner is saying.

Student A can spell the words in the air for clarity.

When Student A has finished, Student B starts whispering their text and so on.

This continues until the text is complete.

When the students have finished, have them go through their text with their partner to check for misunderstood words and spelling mistakes.