

Session 1: Skills → Memory → 2 – A lesson strategy

A brief description of a plan of a memory lesson for year 7 (or any year that hasn't had explicit memory strategy training).

1. First do a brief introduction using the 'Essentials' slide – keep this brisk and lively and short!
2. Then recap with them what they know about learning styles and preferences – Visual, Auditory, Kinaesthetic – a good lead in to this that is active is to ask them to memorise a long word in the target language in 1 minute using any method they like (e.g. Wiederbewusstseinsweckung) and ask them to describe the strategies they used. Some will have instinctively wanted to use a pen to write, others to say the word over and over, others to take a mental picture of the word.
3. Lead on to trying out some strategies by telling them that the conclusions to be drawn by their learning so far this lesson are that they are lots of different ways to memorise, you can improve your 'memory muscle' by 'flexing' in often and in different ways etc..
4. Then introduce the idea that before they start to memorise they need to know what they know – this is a CRUCIAL first step and a stumbling block to many – get them to use the Vocabulary Knowledge Scale activity to identify their own learning needs hierarchy for a set of vocabulary you have been working on.
5. Then give them a choice of methods – these can be any you have chosen (in future lessons they can develop and share their own methods with the class – in fact, this is an excellent homework idea for a continuation of this work on memory.
6. They will only be able to use one of the methods this lesson as by this time, only half a lesson will be left.
7. As a plenary, get them to re-do the VKS sheet and measure their own improvement. Get them to write at the bottom of the sheet (or in their books) which method they used and how effective they found it.