

## **Session 1: Skills → Memory → 4 – Homework**

I think that there is a lot that can be done for homework that is preferable to simply setting 'a learning homework' with a vocabulary test the following lesson. I haven't yet developed these ideas as fully as I think they could be developed but just a few possibilities to get us started:

### **1. Developing your own memorisation method**

After a couple of lessons using different memory strategies in class, students could be asked to develop their own method, write an instruction list for the procedure, use it to learn a set of words and be prepared to explain it to the class. (The teacher could select 3 different methods from the homework that 3 students would get everybody to do in a following lesson)

### **2. Teaching someone else**

This is slightly different but puts into practice the idea that we remember much better those things we are actively involved in explaining, modelling or teaching others. So this homework says that students have to take home what they have learnt (or part thereof) in a lesson and teach it to a brother, sister, parent or grand-parent. The evidence that they have learnt it is the learner writing in the exercise book what they can do, or their actual vocabulary test at the end. The student chooses the remit of the test – i.e. 5 words just TL into English OR 10 words English into TL, saying or spelling. This helps the student realise the different levels of learning and knowing vocabulary too.

### **3. Preparing a teaching resource for a set of vocabulary**

This could be a game (board game) or flashcards or anything really that could be used to put new language into practice and help with its memorisation. This might be too extensive for one homework and may end of being a significant end of unit project. Depending on the language chosen for the homework, this could be a resource that younger years might use – the creation of an audience for students' work is a really important source of motivation – it's learning for a purpose. The attraction of being a 'teacher' and sharing with others what they know is very strong for students.