

Activity Type

Reading, writing, listening and speaking activity, pair work

Focus

Reading and listening comprehension

Grammar and spelling

Aim

To dictate a mixed-up text to a partner, put the text in order, and then answer comprehension questions based on the text.

Preparation

Make a copy of the text and cut it up into sections. Each part should be between two and four sentences long.

Also, prepare some comprehension questions for students to answer based on the text.

Level

Any

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

Here is a simple but fun variation of one of the most popular ESL dictation activities - running dictation.

Procedure

Stick the various parts of the text randomly on a wall outside the classroom.

Divide the students into pairs.

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

The readers run to a part of the text, read a sentence or two, remember it, run back and dictate it to their writer.

The writer listens and writes down what the reader says.

Halfway through, have the students swap roles.

While the students are doing the dictation, write some comprehension questions based on the text on the board.

When the pairs have finished the dictation, they put the parts in the correct order to complete the text.

After a pair has completed the ordering task, check the order of the text and look for any spelling or grammar mistakes.

If the text is correct, have the pair sit down and answer the comprehension questions about the text.

If the text is wrong, students continue with the dictation to find and correct their mistakes.

Afterwards, review the correct order of the text and answers to the questions with the class.