

### Activity Type

Reading, writing, listening and speaking activity, pairwork

### Language Focus

Grammar and spelling

### Aim

To listen and complete a text while many people are talking.

### Preparation

Create a text and split it into two parts. You can split the text in half or by alternating sentences. Make one copy of both texts for each pair of students.

### Level

Any

### Time

20 minutes

### Introduction

This ESL dictation helps students with their communication and listening skills.

### Procedure

Divide the students into pairs (A and B).

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

Example:

A <-----> B

A <-----> B

A <-----> B

A <-----> B

Hand out a different part of the text to each row.

Student A starts by reading the first part of their text to Student B.

Student B listens and writes what they hear.

When Student A has finished reading, the two students swap roles and Student B starts reading their text to Student A.

This continues until the text is complete.

Students have to listen very carefully to understand their partner as everyone will be talking at once and working at different paces.

The activity can get quite noisy, but it's a lot of fun for students.

When everyone has finished, have the pairs of students sit together and go through their texts to check for spelling mistakes and misunderstood words.