

Emergent Syllabus

sample simulation: train tickets



Overview

Use this plan to prepare and do a practical simulation in class. This plan guides the teacher and the student for the activity; however, the materials or content will come from the activity itself. The teacher and student can use phrasebooks, timetables and websites to find useful vocabulary/phrases and real/realistic background information.

Task Description

Consider a task that you may need to do in the near future. For example, you are travelling from Madrid to Bilbao to meet someone at 2pm at the Bilbao train station; plan your journey and buy your tickets.

Initial Task

Find information about the trains you may want to travel on (timetable, route, journey time, etc). You may use the following sites...

- www.renfe.es
- www.google.com/maps

Simulation Activity (in-class)

Prepare the phrases and words you will need for this simulation. Then practice or "role-play" the situation in-class. Consider these questions or mini dialogues ...

- Customer
 - Saying hello and explaining where and when you want to travel
 - Asking for a ticket (eg return/single)
 - Asking for specific train (eg 08.05 to Bilbao)
 - Asking for certain class of travel (eg first/second)
 - Asking the price
 - Asking which platform
 - Saying thank you and good bye
- Clerk
 - Saying hello
 - Asking kind of ticket (eg return/single)
 - Asking which train (time of departure)
 - Asking which class (eg first/second)
 - Saying the price
 - Saying which platform
 - Saying thank you and good bye

The following resources may be useful...

- www.smartphrase.com
- Google Translator
- Phrasebooks: paper-based (physical) or iPhone app

Taking it Further

The simulation can be extended in class to include more complex situations.

- the ticket is expensive, ask for a cheaper one
- direction of seats, window/aisle, smoking/non-smoking, quiet-coach/family-coach, electrical outlet, sleeper, excess luggage
- number of tickets
- stops/changes & connection times
- tickets sold out
- sleeper option

Discussing the topic

A more general conversation about the topic will help to reuse the new words and phrases. Discuss what you like/dislike about train travel. Consider the following questions...

- Which class do you travel in? Why?
- What do you do on the train (read the newspaper, watch DVD, look out of window)?
- Do you eat/drink in the restaurant car?
- Are you ever late for trains?

Visit <http://www.avatarlanguages.com/teaching/guide.php> for further resources.

