

The Direct Method (Ch3)

Introduction

In this lesson, students will learn about the Direct Method. This method is a natural method. It suggests that we learn an L2 in roughly the same way that we learn our L1 – that is, “naturally”. The Direct Method attempts to make L2 learning more like first language learning.

Learning Objectives

- Students will learn about the Direct Method and its techniques and principles.

Learning Outcomes

- **Principles:** Students will be able to describe key principles of the Direct Method such as its goal and “one very basic rule”.
- **Techniques:** Students will be able to describe and express their thoughts about the predominant techniques used in a Direct Method lesson.
- **Application:** Students will be able to create a sequence of activities for a given set of resources (i.e., *The Traffic Accident – Whose fault was it?*) that follow the principles and techniques of the Direct Method.

Key Vocabulary

- Demonstration (p. 25)
- Visual aids (p. 25)
- Realia (p. 28)
- Direct association (p. 29)
- Inductive grammar teaching (p. 29, p. 30)
- Self-correction (p. 31)
- Fill-in-the-blanks (p. 32)
- Dictation (p. 33)
- Map drawing (p. 33)

Understanding the Direct Method

1. What is the goal of the Direct Method?
2. What is the “one very basic rule” of the Direct Method?

Experience

3. Consider the sample lesson in the textbook (pp. 25-28) and the observations and principles of the Direct Method (pp. 28-31).
 - a) What is the topic of the lesson?
 - b) What resources does the teacher use?
 - c) How does the teacher teach; that is, what techniques does the teacher use?
 - d) What is the target language (grammar, vocabulary)?
 - e) How is the target language taught?
 - f) What is the role of the teacher?
 - g) What is the role of the students?

Reviewing the Techniques

4. Look at the list of techniques on textbook pages 32-33. Choose two techniques that you think would be useful for your learners and explain why you like them.

Technique 1

Technique 2

What do you think?

5. Let's find out what everyone thinks about the Direct Method. The textbook on page 33 asks several questions for reflection. First, **choose one question** that you want to discuss with your classmates. Second, **prepare a sample answer** to share with the class.
 - a) Do you agree that the goal of target language instruction should be to teach students how to communicate in the target language?
 - b) Does it make sense to you that the students' native-language should not be used to give meaning to the target language?
 - c) Do you agree that the culture that is taught should be about people's daily lives in addition to the fine arts?
 - d) Should students be encouraged to self-correct?
 - e) Are there any other principles of the Direct Method which you believe in? Which ones?
 - f) Is dictation a worthwhile activity?
 - g) Have you used question-and-answer exercises and conversation practice as described here before? If not, should you?
 - h) Is paragraph writing a useful thing to ask students to do?
 - i) Are there any other techniques of the Direct Method which you would consider adopting? Which ones?

In-Class Activity

6. In this question, you will apply what you have understood about the Direct Method. You have been asked to teach a **high school intermediate** language class. Use the following principles and techniques of the Direct Method to create a sequence of activities:

Principles:

- Start with reading. Develop reading through speaking. (p. 28)
- Use only English. (p. 29)
- Teach and use vocabulary in full sentences. (p. 29)
- Include some conversational activity. (p. 29)
- Teach grammar inductively. (p. 29)
- Help students develop their writing skills (p. 29)

Techniques:

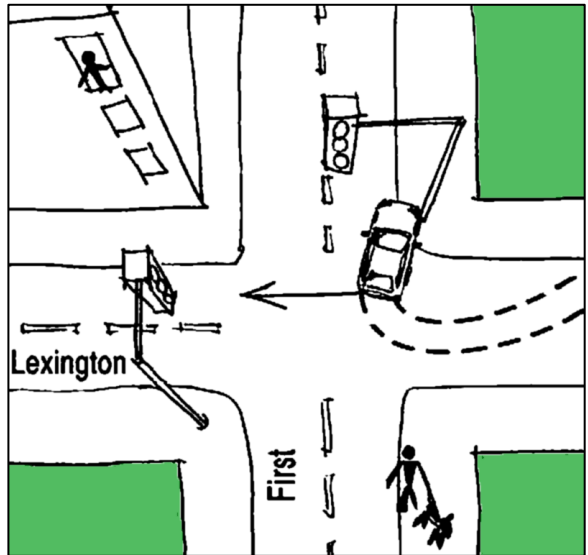
- Reading Aloud (p. 32)
- Question and Answer Exercise (p. 32)
- Fill-in-the-blanks Exercise (p. 32)
- Dictation (p. 33)
- Map Drawing (p. 33)

Lesson topic:

- The Traffic Accident – Whose fault was it?

Lesson resources:

- Traffic accident report, which includes a police officer's hand-drawn diagram of the accident scene and a written account of the accident.

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|  | <p>Mrs. Fran Perry, 35, hit a traffic light pole on the corner of First and Lexington at 6:45 this evening. She said she had turned quickly to avoid a dog. The pole was not damaged, but her car had a broken light. She said she would take care of it right away.</p> <p>Mr. Jerry Thomas, 62, told an officer he'd seen the accident from his bedroom window. He saw a man who had taken his dog off its leash. He said the driver had been on her cell phone. Both the driver and the witness said that they would come in and make a full statement.</p> |
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