NEW ZEALAND / FINLAND
ON LEARNING

To be a true teacher, you must be a learner first. Indeed, teachers’ own passion for learning inspires their students as much as their expertise does.

Peter Senge

marise.lehto@mla.fi / Twitter @finkiwi
@mlassociates
 TEAMWORK: 
 TASKS & TAXONOMIES

- **Background**
  - 20 hour ESP course Finnish Insurance Company
  - B2-C1
  - Language centered as opposed to learning/learner centered

- 6 stage task-based teaching cycle (Nunan 2004)

- Bloom’s taxonomy of learning objectives

marise.lehto@mla.fi / Twitter @finkiwi
@mlassociates
task
- promote interest and interaction (Willis & Willis 2007)
- a communicative event having a non-linguistic outcome (Nunan 2004)
- meaning is primary (Skehan 1996a)

taxonomy
- a system for organising similar things into groups
  http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/taxonomy
- Bloom’s taxonomy (1956) x three domains of educational activities:
  - Cognitive: mental skills (Knowledge)
  - Affective: growth in feelings or emotional areas (Attitude)
  - Psychomotor: manual or physical skills (Skills)
6 stage task-based learning cycle *Nunan 2004*

1/ Activate schemata

2/ Controlled practice

3/ Authentic listening practice

4/ Focus on form

5/ Freer practice

6/ Introduce task
Bloom’s taxonomy learning domains
‘cognitive’ 1954

Knowledge
Comprehension
Application
Analysis
Synthesis
Evaluation

- recall
- understand
- use
- distinguish / separate
- build
- judgement

marise.lehto@mla.fi / Twitter @finkiwi
@mlassociates
1/Activate schemata

• Knowledge (tell, list, describe, relate, name)

2/Controlled practice

• Comprehension (explain, interpret, outline)

3/Authentic listening practice

• Application (solve, show)

4/Focus on form

• Analysis (analyse, compare, categorise, identify)

5/Freer practice

• Synthesis (create, design, add to, produce)

6/Introduce task

• Evaluation (argue, justify)
1/ Activate schemata (knowledge)
- Can you name different types of strategies?
  - Mindmap

2/ Controlled practice (comprehension)
- What was the main idea?
  - Retell it in your own words

3/ Authentic listening practice (application)
- Can you apply this method to your own business model?
  - Construct a worst-case scenario analysis

4/ Focus on form (analysis)
- Can you identify the phrases on giving advice?
  - Categorise them into good/bad advice

5/ Freer practice (synthesis)
- Can you devise a new strategy based on his 4 suggestions?
  - New strategy

6/ Task (evaluation)
- Can you justify the reasons for your new strategy to the BOD?
  - Presentation / Debate / Panel discussion
Learning Objectives:

- to discuss the concept of ‘effective execution’ of a company strategy
- to watch/listen to a video on session topic

Stage One: Questions for discussion:

1/ What are some of the major challenges that your company faces in terms of executing your strategy (think both long and short term). List 3 challenges below and be prepared to explain & justify your opinions.

2/ How can a company best allocate their resources so that their customer is ‘well looked after’?

3/ According to Professor Bob Simmons of Harvard University, ‘a list of core values’ is a recipe for failure. Instead, he argues that a company’s core value should be ‘who comes first during the tough times – employee, shareholders or customers? Agree or disagree? Why?

4/ What do you suggest are the most effective ways of engaging your employees in discussion? List 4 ways
1/ Discussion
- e.g. long/short term challenges

2/ Listening for gist
- Main idea
- Retell using same model

3/ Authentic listening
- Apply this method
- wc/bs scenario

4/ Focus on form
- Giving advice
- Collocations

5/ Freer practice
- Devise a new strategy

6/ Real world tasks
- Presentation to BOD

Assessment

strategy

marise.lehto@mla.fi / Twitter @finkiwi
@mlassociates
How useful do you think this approach to designing activities using authentic materials is?

Is it something you could see yourself using?

What are the main advantages / disadvantages for:

- You
- Your students?
humanising the learning experience

THANK YOU!

marise.lehto@mla.fi, www.mla.fi / Twitter @finkiwi @mlassociates