4 Principles of Interactive Understanding

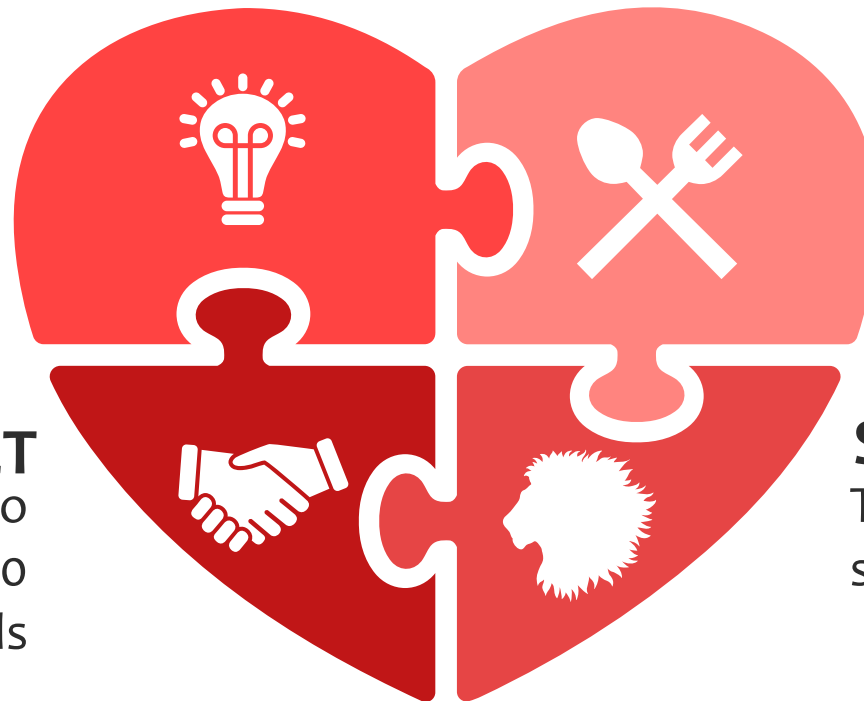

UNDERSTANDABLE
Speak in a way that is mostly understandable.

FEED RESPONSES
Feed students language so that they can respond authentically

INTERACT
Ask students to interact every 30 seconds

STORIES
Tell compelling stories

Paris Granville 2020

7 Key Strategies for Interactive Understanding

#1 Question Ladder

Before students can produce language independantly, the teachers scaffolds their output by scaling up or down the difficultly and feeding them possible responses as appropriate for individual students.

- Who questions
- Yes or No Questions
- Either or Questions
- What Questions
- Open-ended questions

#2 Personal Stories

Teacher models stories with a student as a protagonist. They will snip their picture from the student info system. The idea is to tell a funny story with the current vocabulary context.

- Question Ladder
- Draw It
- Vocabulary Signaling
- Questions (quiz or survey) as you tell the story

#3 White Boards

Each student gets a personal white board. They demonstrate that they understand meaning.

- Draw It
- Using previous vocab write a definition
- Use the vocab in a sentence
- Find a synonym
- Identify the word being described
- Personalized questions (no wrong answers)

#4 Cultural Stories

Teacher models stories in a cultural setting. Student demonstrate their understanding and begin to investigate interculturality

- Question Ladder
- Draw It
- Vocabulary Signaling
- Questions (quiz or survey) as you tell the story
- Teacher feeds them words to talk about perspectives

#5 TPR & Vocab Signaling

Students signal that they have linked the sounds the teacher says to the meaning. They perform a gesture linked to meaning or hold up a vocabulary card.

- Hold it up / Do a Gesture
- Questions answered with a gesture or vocab card
- Combine vocabulary in a unique way - hold up two cards
- Sort the gestures or cards by meaning
- Student-led

#6 Gamification

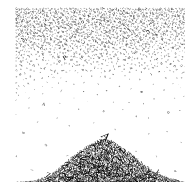Teacher orchestrates cooperative games that activate the pleasure centers in the brain.

- Dramatic Music
- Quizlet/Kahoot/Gimkit
- Class periods compete among each other
- Create a team name/avatar as homework

#7 Structured Input

For problematic structures, teacher creates sentences where only that structure will clarify the meaning. Students identify the nuance in meaning in some way.

- Identify who is doing the action.
- Choose the illustration that it describes
- Draw It
- Multiple Choice
- Identify the emotion/attitude of the person speaking.

Notes