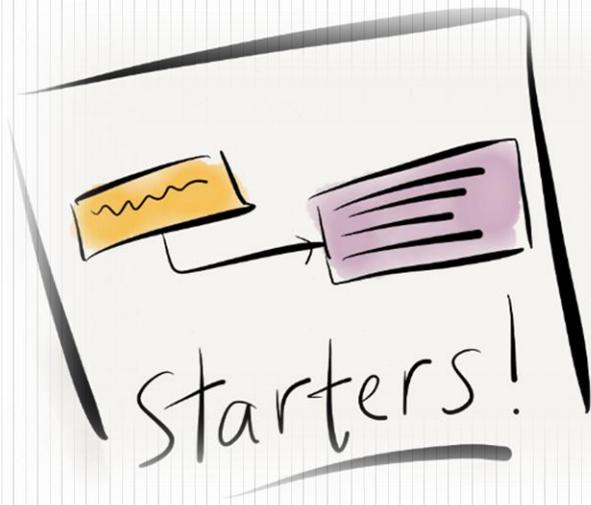


Exploring *Lesson Starters*  
with Fluency

IOE Annual Chinese Conference 2017



**Elliot Hsiao-Williams**

*The Charter School / City of London School*

*Head of Teaching at Dragons in Europe*

# What would I say about my



## Lesson Starters?



- *'Most of the time my lesson starters are reading related'.*
- *'Most of the time my lesson starters are writing related'.*
- *'I often use a lesson starter as a recap of past lessons.'*
- *'I like presenting my lesson starters on the board.'*
- *'Lesson starters are more effective when given as individual sheets.'*  
*(opinions from fellow teachers at various schools, either Mandarin or non-Mandarin)*

# What would my students want from my

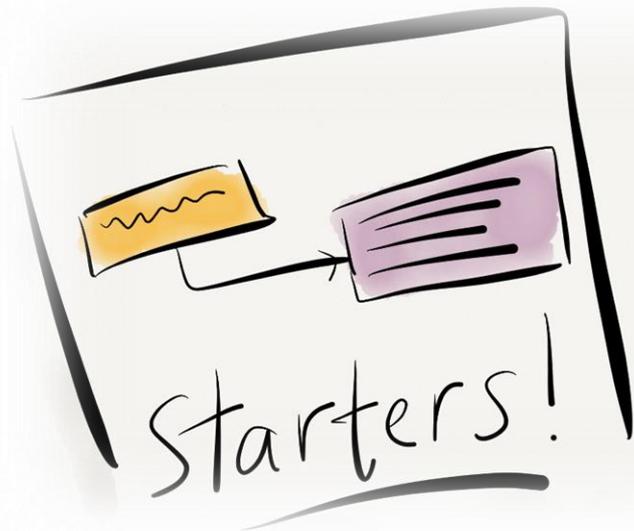
## Lesson Starters?



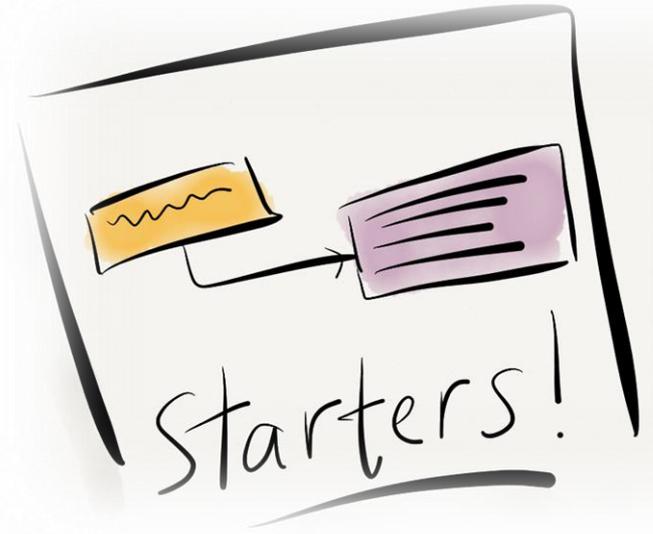
- *Introduce a new topic*
- *Engage our brains*
- *Practise speaking*
- *Recap previous work*
- *Check the levels with peers*
- *Be enjoyable and fun to start with*

*(opinions from students at CLS)*

Q: How do my students use their learning time effectively, even during lesson starters?



Q: How do my students maximise their fluency using the 'lesson starter' time?



*We'd like our students to have...*

- 1. Increased spoken fluency*
- 2. Spontaneity of understanding texts*

*A 'speaking starter' could be...*

- 1. Quick-fire interpreters*
- 2. Spontaneous dialoguers*
- 3. ???*

*A 'reading starter' could be...*

- 1. Spot-it (characters or phrases)*
- 2. Context-reader*
- 3. ???*

# Noughts and Crosses!

**to dance**

**to sing**

**to swim**

**to make a  
phone call**

**to draw**

**to play  
football**

**to fly a kite**

**to play  
badminton**

**to read a  
book**

Chat to your partner in Mandarin according to the script below:

A: How many people are there in your family?

B: 5, what about your family?

A: There are **only** 3, dad, mum and **myself**.

B: What are your hobbies?

A: I like sport, do you like it?

B: No, I **don't do sport very well**. I like films.

A: OK then. Would you like to go to the cinema **with** me?

*\*What do you think the words in purple are for?*

‘Spot-it’:

- 1) Any subject (I/you/he/she/we/they..etc).
- 2) Any numbers.

一 二 三 四 五 六 七  
我的 朋友 在 哪里?  
在 这里, 在 这里,  
我的 朋友 在 这里.

# 'Spot-it':

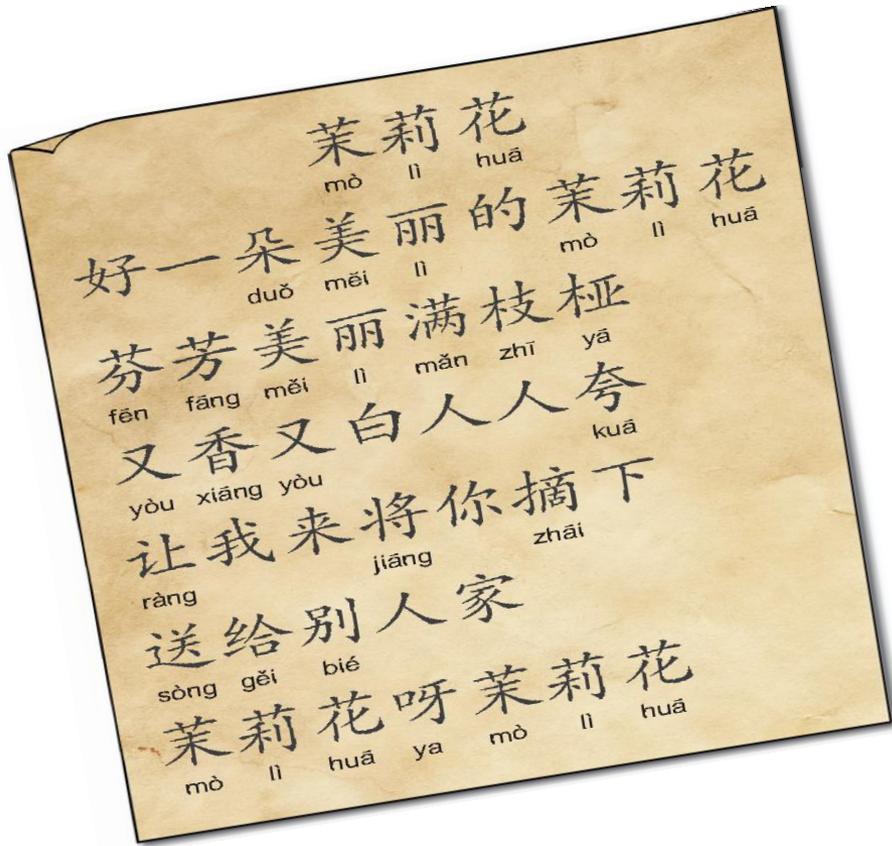
- 1) Any subject (I/you/he/she/we/they..etc).
- 2) Any colours.
- 3) Any animals.
- 4) Any verbs.
- 5) Anything related to water.

作词：腾格尔  
作曲：腾格尔

蓝蓝的天空，青青的湖水，  
绿绿的草原，这是我的家。  
奔驰的骏马，洁白的羊群，  
还有你姑娘，这是我的家。  
我爱你我的家，  
我的家我的天堂。

# 'Spot-it':

- 1) Any subject (I/you/he/she/we/they..etc).
- 2) Any colours.
- 3) Any adjectives.
- 4) Any verbs.



What is the context? /

What could be an extension task?

啤酒

可乐

花茶

红茶

绿茶

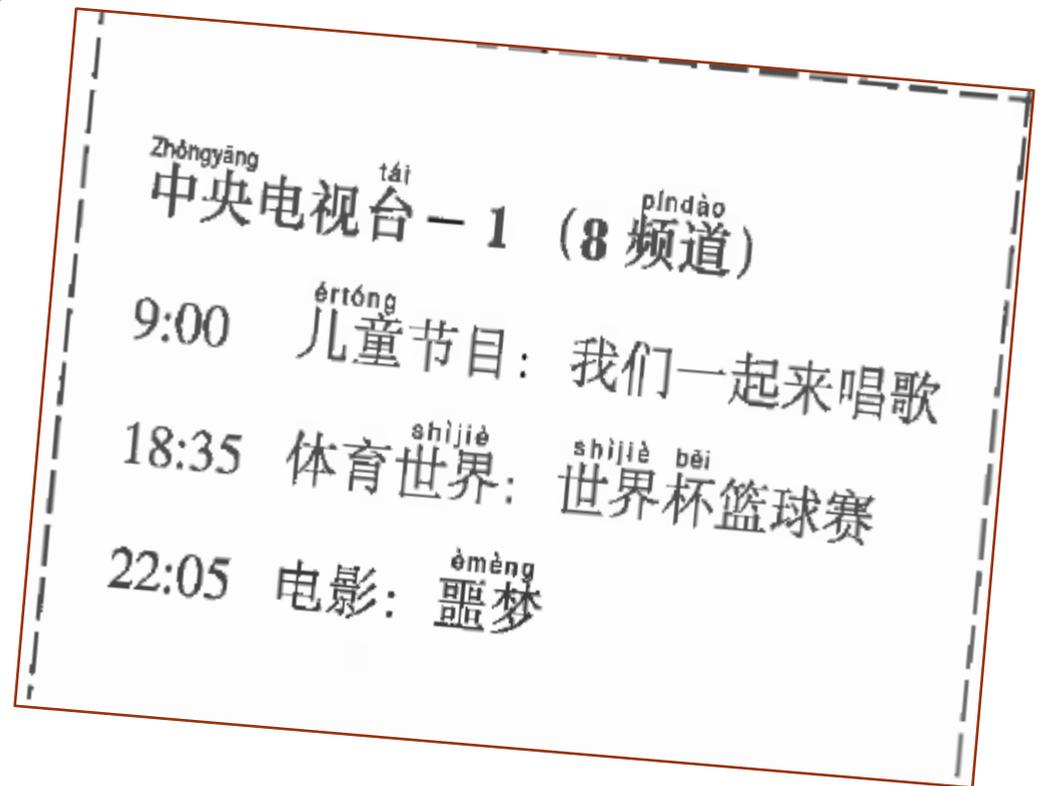
八宝茶

米酒



# ‘Spot-it’ / ‘What is the context?’:

- 1) Spot a leisure activity.
- 2) Spot a electronic devices / things.
- 3) Spot a verb.
- 4) ‘What is the context?’



‘What is context?’ / ‘Spot-it’?



# ‘What is context?’ / ‘Spot-it’?

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新上海大酒店。

第二天：上海—苏州

上午参观外滩，

下午购物。晚上乘  
火车到苏州，住苏州  
花园饭店。

第三天：苏州—杭州

上午参观苏州园林。

下午乘空调大巴到  
杭州。晚上住西湖  
酒店。

第四天：杭州—西安

游览西湖。

晚上乘火车回西安。

出发日期：每星期一、五。

电话：0293 3576328



‘What is context?’ / ‘Spot-it’?

听, 是什么声音……  
让他们充满能量?  
精彩奥运活动 敬待4月开幕



# *Lesson Starters*

## *Group Work*

*Design your own starter with either of the two points in mind:*

- 1) Spoken fluency*
- 2) Reading fluency*

*Resources: language required; potential topic(s); potential 'authentic' materials*

# Group 1

\*language required: numbers

\*potential topic: Myself / Greetings

\*prior knowledge: 'numbers' / 'basic greetings'  
/ 'say and asking for names'

--Is the starter going to be on:

Speaking or Reading?--

# Group 2

\*language required: various 'solid' food and 'liquid' food (i.e. drinks!); some key verbs for food and drink; some key adjectives for food and drink

\*potential topic: Food and Drink

\*prior knowledge: 'days of the week' / 'family' / 'opinions ('to like 喜欢')

--Is the starter going to be on:

Speaking or Reading?--

# Group 3

\*language required: various hobbies-related vocabulary and sentence structures.

\*potential topic: Hobbies

\*prior knowledge: 'to have 有' / 'family' / 'days' (past 昨天-present 今天-future 明天) / 'days of the week' /

--Is the starter going to be on:

Speaking or Reading?--

# Group 4

\*language required: various clothes items; 'to buy'

\*potential topic: Shopping and Clothes

\*prior knowledge: 'to have & not to have' / 'basic adjectives' (e.g. 好; 不好; 美丽; 便宜; 贵) / 'numbers' / 'yuán 元'

--Is the starter going to be on:

Speaking or Reading?--

*Lesson Starters:*

*Discussion Points*

- 1) Practising *speaking* as a starter.
- 2) Using *authentic materials* for starters.