

Busy teachers:

optimising learning and reducing workload

Victor Wu (Highdown School, Reading)

Maria Pia Maggioni (University College School, London)

Introduction

- Why is vocabulary learning so important in the current Mandarin curriculum?
- Let's think deep: why Bloom's taxonomy?
- Vocabulary learning in the 4 skills: can we 'recycle'?

“Word Battle Ship”



HOW IT WORKS:

- 1 minute to write down (pinyin or characters) as many words as possible related to a given theme/word/concept
- Cross out all the words read out by the teacher
- The winner is the student with more words not crossed out

“Word Battle Ship”



GOOD FOR:

- *Recap of a topic previously studied*
- *Students learn from students: they note down the words that they didn't think of!*
- *Preparation for a writing task (brainstorming of all the words that can be used)*

“The Link”



HOW IT WORKS:

- The teacher announces 3 selected themes/words/concepts
- Students write out words (pinyin or characters) regarding the criteria on a piece of paper
- Students exchange their papers and then link the words together (each word can only have one link) and explain the link (in English)
- 1 minute to make as many sentences as they want trying to use all the words on the paper

“The Link”



GOOD FOR:

- *Using connectives and conjunctions*
- *Revising multiple topics which don't necessarily relate to each other*

“Silent Taboo”



HOW IT WORKS:

- Students in groups and choose a representative who stands in front of each group
- A component/character/word is shown on the screen (the group can see the word but not the representative)
- Students mime the word to make the representative guess
- The representative scores a point only if he effectively uses that word in a sentence

“Silent Taboo”



GOOD FOR:

- *Building confidence in younger year groups*

Conclusions

- Evaluation and reflection grids exchange:
how many variations?
- What do you think will be most effective activity with your students?
- We will compile a list of all the ideas/variations we came up with today.
Leave us your email address if you want us to share it with you!