

# CI Toolbox

## A Guide for Language Teachers



JOSHUA CABRAL

### Interaction and Discussion

These activities focus on fostering interactive communication in the classroom, allowing students to engage with the language in meaningful and personalized ways.

#### Picture Talk

- **Description:** Display a picture and lead a discussion in the target language, asking questions and narrating the scene.
- **Time:** 10-15 minutes
- **Tips for Success:** Use pictures that are culturally relevant or connected to students' interests to boost engagement. Keep questions simple and gradually increase complexity.

#### PQA (Personalized Questions and Answers)

- **Description:** Ask students personalized questions related to a theme or topic, encouraging them to respond in the target language.
- **Time:** 10-12 minutes
- **Tips for Success:** Tailor questions to students' lives to make the conversation relevant. Use visual aids or gestures to support understanding

## Special Person Interviews

- **Description:** Conduct interviews with one student at a time, focusing on their likes, dislikes, and personal experiences.
- **Time:** 10-15 minutes
- **Tips for Success:** Prepare a set of questions in advance and encourage students to answer in detail. Use this activity regularly to build classroom community.

## Card Talk

- **Description:** Students draw or bring in images related to a theme (e.g., hobbies, favorite foods) and discuss them in the target language.
- **Time:** 15-20 minutes
- **Tips for Success:** Allow students to prepare their images ahead of time. Use this activity to introduce or reinforce vocabulary.

## 1Weekend Chats

- **Description:** Discuss what students did over the weekend, using past tense and encouraging detailed responses.
- **Time:** 10-15 minutes
- **Tips for Success:** Model responses before asking students to share. Use visual supports like pictures or timelines to help with comprehension.

## Calendar Talk

- **Description:** Discuss the day, date, weather, and any special events, using the target language to build routine and familiarity.
- **Time:** 5-7 minutes
- **Tips for Success:** Incorporate questions and student participation. Use visuals like calendars and weather icons to support understanding.

## Storytelling and Narrative

These activities involve students in storytelling and narratives, offering a rich context for language acquisition through listening and speaking.

## Story Listening

- **Description:** Tell a story in the target language, using gestures, drawings, and props to enhance comprehension.
- **Time:** 15-20 minutes
- **Tips for Success:** Choose stories that are simple and engaging. Use repetition and variation to reinforce key vocabulary and structures.

## Write and Discuss

- **Description:** After a class discussion or storytelling activity, write a summary together as a class, reinforcing the language used.
- **Time:** 10-15 minutes
- **Tips for Success:** Encourage student input during the writing process. Use the written summary as a reading activity in a subsequent lesson.

## Movie Talk

- **Description:** Play a short video clip and pause to describe scenes, ask questions, and discuss what happens in the target language.
- **Time:** 15-20 minutes
- **Tips for Success:** Choose clips with clear visuals and minimal dialogue. Pre-watch the clip to plan pauses and key discussion points.

## Reading and Writing

These activities are designed to reinforce comprehension and writing skills through structured and interactive tasks.

### One Word at a Time

- **Description:** Create a story with the class, adding one word at a time, encouraging creativity and language use.
- **Time:** 10-12 minutes
- **Tips for Success:** Start with a prompt or a theme to guide the story. Allow students to suggest words and phrases, providing support as needed.

### Embedded Reading

- **Description:** Present a text in the target language at various levels of complexity, gradually revealing more details as students' comprehension grows.
- **Time:** 15-25 minutes
- **Tips for Success:** Begin with a simplified version and ask comprehension questions before moving to the next level. Encourage predictions and connections to previous readings.

### Volleyball Reading

- **Description:** Use a CI novel or short story. Working in pairs, one student reads a sentence or paragraph in the target language and the other student translates. Then switch roles and continue.
- **Time:** 15-20 minutes
- **Tips for Success:** Choose texts at students' proficiency level and that they know so they can focus on the language structures and vocabulary.

## Draw the Sentence

- **Description:** Working in pairs, each student selects a sentence from a CI novel, informational text or short story and draws a quick and simple picture to represent it. They then exchange the picture and try to locate the sentence it in the text that it represents.
- **Time:** 15-20 minutes
- **Tips for Success:** Choose texts at students' proficiency level and that they know so they can quickly locate the sentence once they have an idea of what it is.

## Running Dictation

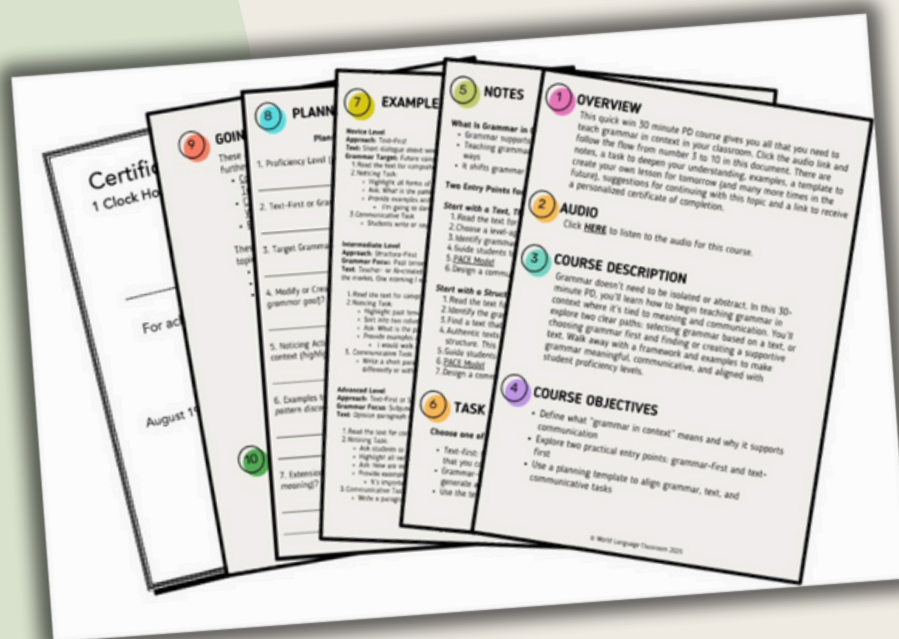
- **Description:** Place sentences around the classroom. Students work in pairs, with one running to read the sentence and the other writing it down.
- **Time:** 15-20 minutes
- **Tips for Success:** Ensure the sentences are short and related to current classroom themes. Emphasize accuracy in both reading and writing.

## Dictation with a Twist

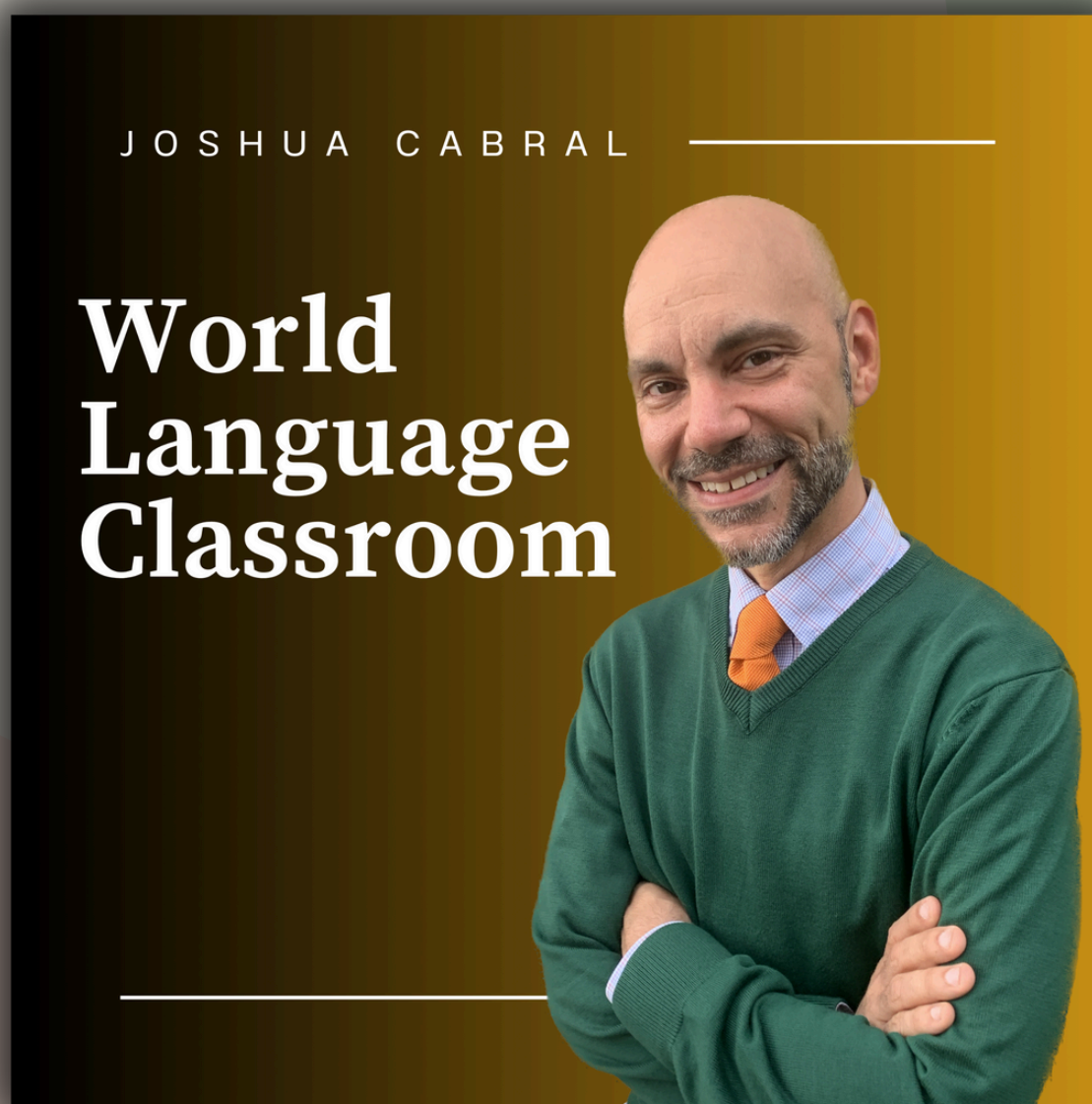
- **Description:** Read a sentence aloud, and students write it down, then modify it based on a prompt (e.g., change the tense, add a detail).
- **Time:** 10-15 minutes
- **Tips for Success:** Start with simple sentences and gradually increase complexity. Provide prompts that encourage creativity and language manipulation.

## Next Steps

I created Ready for Tomorrow 30-Minute Quick Win PD Courses for world language teachers like you, who want to grow professionally but don't always have access to in-school workshops or teacher conferences.



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