

Dictation

Do not under-estimate the usefulness of dictation. It can be a very effective tool for practicing the four language skills. It is especially useful as a warm-up exercise at the beginning of the class period to review previously covered materials. Frequent short dictations focusing on commonly used words and expressions used in simple sentences, and repeatedly stressing function words (such as articles, prepositions, pronouns, and auxiliary verbs) will do much to improve students' writing and spelling. Once students become accustomed to simple dictations, you may want to vary the dictation format to keep interest high. Try the following:

- Dictate six questions.
- After the students have written all six questions in their notebooks, have six volunteers write the questions on the chalkboard.
- Have six other students read and correct the questions.
- Have six more volunteers go up to the chalkboard and write the answers to the questions.
- Have the students read and, correct the answers.
- Discuss additional possible answers to the questions.

Other Suggestions:

- Dictate the answers, and then have students write the questions.
- Dictate single words that students must use in complete sentences.
- Dictate jumbled sentences that students must then put into correct word order.

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