Task-Based Learning

Source:
Jane Willis, *A Framework for Task-Based Learning*, Longman ELT
Why task-based learning?
What is a task?
Six types of tasks
The TBL framework
Why Task-Based Learning?

## Conditions for Language Learning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exposure</th>
<th>Use of the language to do things (i.e. exchange meanings)</th>
<th>Motivation to listen and read the language and to speak and write (i.e. to process and use the exposure)</th>
<th>Instruction in language (i.e. chances to focus on form)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>to a rich but comprehensible input of real spoken and written language in use</td>
<td>essential</td>
<td>desirable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The TBL framework supports these conditions in a classroom environment.
What is a task?

A task is an activity "where the target language is used by the learner for a communicative purpose (goal) in order to achieve an outcome."

Jane Willis
Types of tasks

1. Listing
   - brainstorming
   - fact-finding

Outcome:
Completed list or draft mind map.
Types of tasks

2. Ordering and sorting

- sequencing
- ranking
- categorising
- classifying

Outcome:
Set of information ordered and sorted according to specified criteria
Types of tasks

3. Comparing

- matching
- finding similarities
- finding differences

Outcome:
Could be items appropriately matched or assembled, or the identification of similarities and/or differences.
Types of tasks

4. Problem solving

- analysing real situations
- analysing hypothetical situations
- reasoning
- decision making

Outcome:
Solutions to the problem, which can then be evaluated.
Types of tasks

5. Sharing personal experiences
   - narrating
   - describing
   - exploring and explaining
     attitudes, opinions, reactions

Outcome:
Largely social.
Types of tasks

6. Creative Tasks

- brainstorming
- fact-finding
- ordering and sorting
- comparing
- problem solving and many others

Outcome:
End product which can be appreciated by a wider audience.
The TBL Framework

Pre-task
- Introduction to topic and task

Task cycle
- Task
- Planning
- Report

Language focus
- Analysis
- Practice
TBL
Task-Based Learning