

Activity 1: Facilitating a Survey of Language Strategy Use

Format:

Individual, interactive, whole group

Target Audience:

This activity is designed to be used with students in a second/foreign language classroom with facilitation by the teacher and/or second/foreign language teachers, researchers, and administrators in an SSBI workshop/course.

Purpose:

To offer participants an opportunity to determine and review their language strategy repertoire. The activity is also intended to raise the participants' awareness about the range and frequency of strategies that they use, and to increase their interest level with regard to specific strategies that they use or could use. In addition, the exercise will ideally encourage students to evaluate how effectively they use certain strategies.

Time:

45 minutes (25 to fill out the survey and 20 for discussion)

Materials:

Copy of Language Strategy Use Survey

Directions:

Participants are first asked to fill out the survey on their own. Next, they are to get together with a partner and compare responses. Finally, they can be asked to share their insights with the entire group.

Discussion:

The following are a series of points related to the survey that could be shared with the participants:

- The current instrument is not meant to produce a score or a score by skill area, rather to heighten awareness.
- Not all strategies will be useful for all tasks, but the broader the language learners' repertoire, the more likelihood of success.
- You could raise the issue as to whether some of these strategies are more likely than others to be used in sequence or cluster than others.
- All strategies on the list are thought to have some value, depending on the learner's style and strategy preferences, the given context, and the specific task.
- A task-based strategy use survey would presumably be concerned about success at using a strategy in a given context. This may be more informative than a survey that deals with strategies only in general terms.