



It Worked Well Wednesday

In February of this year, I took part in a brilliant training session delivered by Dr Conti which focused on fluency building and where I learnt about the activity, Fast & Furious. I was desperate to try this out following the course and it has quickly become one of my very favourite activities to do.

The activity is designed to encourage learners to repeat orally (and also in a written form if you prefer) structures that they are working on following lots of input activities with the aim of building automaticity.

The first time I tried it I used the sentences which were aimed at learners who had recently encountered a handful of irregular verbs in the Perfect Tense with avoir. The learners worked in pairs - one learner focusing on even numbers and one on odd numbers – and then they swapped roles. To enhance the challenge and opportunity for repetition, each time a learner hesitated or made a mistake, both learners had to go back to number 1 and start again.

The learners loved it! They said they found it a little stressful to start with, but a positive stress that focused them and made them determined to not have to go back to the start of the task and repeat!

I could see how the activity made the learners think on the spot, quickly retrieve the information they needed whilst also trying to maintain the flow of the sentence. Perfect!

When we reconvened as a full group, I repeated the activity using nominations at random and everyone was brilliant!

There were smiles all round and I would definitely recommend trying this.

I have also done this activity with Intermediate and Advanced learners using more complex structures such as conditional clauses and the subjunctive.

Another Conti hit! 😊