

It Worked Well Wednesday

Have you ever tried the Conti activity 'Oral Ping Pong'? This brilliant speaking activity, usually done in pairs, encourages learners to practise what they have been working in a highly organised and structured way. My learners love it.

I usually develop the ping pongs from a passage that we have explored together and that we have already worked on using a variety of other activities so that my learners are familiar and have developed confidence with the vocabulary and structures included. The Oral Ping Pong gently moves the learners onto the stage of reproducing these orally.

Here is an example of a passage that I used to work on the Perfect Tense with avoir using regular and irregular verbs that I then adapted into an Oral Ping Pong

Passage to practise Perfect Tense with avoir – regular and irregular verbs

Je n'ai pas travaillé hier et j'ai fait beaucoup de choses !

Le matin, j'ai pris le train pour aller en ville et j'ai retrouvé mon amie dans un nouveau café. Nous avons beaucoup bavardé et ensuite nous avons fait un peu de shopping. Mon amie a acheté une nouvelle robe et un nouveau manteau – elle a mis son nouveau manteau tout de suite !

A midi, j'ai pris le déjeuner chez moi et j'ai lu le journal pendant un petit moment. J'ai écrit un nouveau blog pour mon site web et puis, j'ai préparé le dîner pour mon mari et moi. J'ai cuisiné un bœuf bourguignon et mon mari a choisi une bonne bouteille de vin rouge.

Après, nous avons regardé notre film préféré que nous avons vu trois fois !

For the Oral Ping Pong, the learners work through the activity line by line with Partner A starting the sentence and Partner B finishing the sentence. They each have each other's sentences so they can help their partner along the way. I always encourage my learners to do the activity at least three times:

1. The learners both read their sentences in French – this helps to show them how the activity will work, whilst also enabling them to practise pronunciation and build some momentum.
2. The learners now work through the activity again by translating their sentences from English into French.
3. Repeat step 2 but try to do it a little quicker.

You can still do this activity if you are working online although you do need to be a little more organised! When using Zoom, I email half the group partner A and half the group partner B in advance and then the learners work in Breakout Rooms. It is definitely worth the extra time setting it up!