

Student-made Dictionnaire

During the TPR phase (the first few weeks of first year) a student-made dictionary provides the students with a list of the words they are learning.

Make a transparency of the dictionary page so that you are modeling how to make the dictionary page. Photocopy the dictionary and the back page of the dictionary so that it is two-sided. Three-hole punch the sheets. hand out one page to each student.

Spell the first words (in French... this results in them knowing the alphabet without your ever having to teach it) as you write them in the space below the illustration area. Typically you will teach 7 - 12 words per day, so you will spell the 7 or so words and write them on the transparency. Students copy the spelling of each word as you write it. Be aware that some students are unable to copy correctly from an overhead or board, so require that partners put their dictionary pages together and check the spelling of every single word they copied.

The homework for that evening is to illustrate the meaning of each word. I made an example illustration of the first word (Levez-vous) which was so incredibly rudimentary that it made the students laugh. i assured them that they did not have to be as "expert" as I was, a drawing of less artistic quality was perfectly fine. Once they saw what I thought was a good drawing, nobody claimed to be unable to draw!

Grade the homework the following day: Stand at the door and check to see that every single word is illustrated as the students file into the room. Mark "5" on the seating chart if the words are all illustrated, mark a "ZERO" if one or more words did not get illustrated. by the time the bell rings, the homework has been graded, a glance at the seating chart shows you who is absent, and you are ready to begin with comprehensible input!

My TPR phase lasted from three to six weeks, with many stories and questions being the content of class. I kept handing out dictionary pages until we were ready to begin the textbook (Look, I Can Talk.) Once in the textbook, I handed out the entire chapter's vocabulary list before we began each chapter.

DICTIONNAIRE

Student draws illustration
of word in this space.
(Delete or white out this
text before copying.)

Student writes
word here
