



Toki Pona

by Paul Walsh

Lesson Topic: Invented languages

Level: B2+

Time: 45-60 minutes+

Activities/ Tasks: Discussion, watching video, jigsaw reading

Materials: Projector/ laptop

Language: Language for discussion, expressing opinions, agreement/ disagreement



Preparation

Download the film '[The Universal Language](#)' or the [excerpt from the film](#) on YouTube.

Procedure

1) Write on the WB or dictate these three questions:

- Why do children invent languages?
- Why do adults invent languages?
- Can you think of advantages that invented languages have over 'ordinary' languages?

2) In pairs learners discuss the questions. The final question is meant to be tricky!

3) Watch the film '[The Universal Language](#)' or the excerpt from the film given at the beginning of this post.

4) Ask learners the following questions:

- Why was Esperanto invented, in your opinion?
- Why do people want to learn Esperanto?
- What are the advantages of Esperanto?

5) Feedback. Example answers might include:

- Esperanto was invented to prevent conflict between people
- To communicate with other people around the world
- Esperanto is easier than other languages

6) Tell the learners "You're going to read about another person who invented their own language. First, you're going to read two different texts then *after*, I want you to work together to summarise what you read".

7) **Jigsaw Reading** - learners read different parts of an article on invented languages:

Group A - [Babel's modern architects Page 1](#)

Group B - [Babel's modern architects Page 2](#) (preteach the word *Conlang* - an abbreviation of 'constructed language')



8) Pair learners from Group A with learners from Group B.

Learners discuss what they have written and together compose a brief summary of their two texts. The summary should contain information on:

- What you learnt about Toki Pona
- What you learnt about invented languages

9) Conclusion. Ask the learners the following questions:

Would you like to learn an invented language?

If so which language would you choose?

Follow up tasks

As a project, learners could go to the official [Toki Pona website](#) and find out more about this invented language and its author.

Send learners to [this](#) site - what happened when this person tried to learn Toki Pona in 48 hours?

Images

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