

Word List Instructions

1. There are 132 words on the list. They are randomly chosen words – some nouns, some verbs, some adjectives and a few adverbs - that I heavily depend on to start the year in level one classes. Having these words on the wall in large print (lower case letters are 3/4" tall) makes the start of the year much easier for me than it would be without them.
2. I begin a few classes per week by laser pointing to and translating, then gesturing, about five words. The kids put them in their composition books. I don't introduce new words every day.
3. The words are the basis for One Word Images and Word Chunk Team games (see this site, resources, workshop handouts, one word images and word chunk team activity). For the first month of the year at least, as a break from doing the Circling with Cards/Balls activity, I spend a lot of time building little one word images with the kids. We use the words on the wall. Doing this does a lot more than teach the target language – it leads to the goal of telling stories by teaching the classroom rules (see the posters site of this page) and making everything clear about how CI works. Besides teaching the rules, it also sends the strong message to the class that things will be zany, as each image we produce together (with a hidden artist drawing the image as well, as described elsewhere on this site) is something fun that we create together.
4. I find that the 132 words are enough to get the job done of setting the class up for the year in terms of the rules, the CI process, etc. Once the Circling with Balls/Cards, the One Word Images, and the Word Chunk Team games have been done for a few months, stories are very easy to get going. That shift to stories happens in October or November, usually.
5. Of course, as stated, this all refers to level one classes. I don't think I would do any word lists for levels other than first year classes. It wouldn't serve any purpose as the kids will have already been trained in how to do stories.
6. Because they are right there on the wall during class, the Word Lists are used in class to spark discussion in any level class – they can be accessed by students at anytime to respond to questions during PQA or a story.