Getting started
Modern Languages

Professional Diploma in Education
Objectives for today

- Get to know each other a little
- Find out what happens on the mod lang course
- Think out strategies for the early days in school
The Mod Lang Course

- How do you learn languages
- How do you teach languages

- Short Chinese for beginners course
- Focus on your classrooms
2012-13 Dos and Don’ts
2012-13 Dos and Don’ts

- A little often
- Use the people available to you – for lots of reasons
- Don’t be afraid
What do you want to be?

Imagine your best teacher
What do you want to be?
What do you want to be?

- Fair
- Consistent
- High expectations
- Challenging
- Inspiring/Enthusiastic about their subject
First class

- Who are these people?
First class

- What would you like them to learn today?
First class

- What are your golden rules?
First class and on

- What is going to be your routine?
Establishing a TL culture
What are the challenges?
Challenges

- It can be exhausting
- It is time-consuming
- Mixed-ability classes
- Ordinary level exam classes
- “No oral at JC” influence
- They (or their colleagues) don’t feel comfortable using the TL at all times
- Learners are not used to it
- Other teachers aren’t doing it
Have you ever observed any benefits of using TL?

Bearing that in mind...
Have you ever observed any benefits of using TL?

- Motivation/Excitement
- Immersion
- Unconscious learning
- Independent learning
- Pronunciation
- Confidence
- Teacher Confidence
- Evaluation/Assessment
- Exam preparation
Activity 1
Non-verbal instructions

- **Individually:**
  - Write a few (3) instructions you would normally give in class (1 per strip)
  - Put them in the box

- **In groups of 5**
  - Take a set of instructions from the box
  - Take it in turn to act out the instruction
  - Give each other feedback on clarity
Some classroom functions used by the students
Activity 2
Core of simple phrases and words

- From the set of instructions, take the 5 most common
- For your language, in groups decide on a set of simple phrases that you can use in class for these
- Write the phrases on strips
- Stick on a large sheet
- Test this by acting out the instruction with simple language this time
Have you ever observed any benefits of using TL?

Bearing that in mind…
What effective TL use is not

Lots of talking

in the TL
What effective TL use is

Structured, planned, systematic use of TL in an agreed and scaffolded manner

Routine
How to go about it?

- Let the learners in on the secret
- Routine routine routine
- Plan for the language you will use
- Pay attention to your language, speed, intonation (record yourself to be sure)
- Use non-verbal communication – such as?
- Encourage collaborative learning
How to go about it?

- Avoid translation as a first option. Why???
- Avoid being your own simultaneous interpreter. Why???
- Don’t always ask learners what something means
- Activities in building blocks
- Review and revise
- Competition, games
- Systematic incentives. Such as??
- Expecting too much has a negative effect on learners’ motivation, but so does expecting too little
Many thanks to Silvia Bertoni who would often do this session for her very helpful insights
Are we sure they don’t understand?

(Jones et al)
Some references


Some references (contd.)


- Jones, B. et al., 2002. You speak, they speak: focus on target language use. London: CILT

Some references (contd.)