

Classroom Tip

Ready, Set, Read!

Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS)

TPRS builds proficiency in the use of grammatical structures by having the students read and invent stories. The structures are not explained at length, nor are the students drilled in grammatical paradigms. Instead, the teacher creates a context in which the target structures and vocabulary return repeatedly within a conversational setting. In this context, students can acquire proficiency in a natural, conversational way. They are not learning *about* the language; they are learning *to use* the language.

A TPRS lesson progresses in three phases.

1. *Establish meaning.* The teacher presents the grammar structures and vocabulary through spoken examples in the target language, and insures that the students understand them either through gestures or by writing them on the board in the students' native language.
2. *Reinforce the use of those structures by "asking" a story.* In the target language, the teacher introduces the outline of a story and asks students to provide the details. The teacher solicits student responses by asking who/what/when/where/why/how questions, recycling both the vocabulary and the target grammar. The student's answers build the story.
3. *Reiterate the material through reading and discussing the story in the target language.* Comprehension can be verified by having students translate the story aloud. Repetition of the target structure can be achieved by asking who/what/when/where/why/how questions about the story, and about the students themselves. Asking the students questions about themselves keeps them interested in listening to the material.

This page provides background information about TPRS, tools for TPRS lessons, and a sampling of links to external resources. In addition, many of our lessons make use of TPRS methodology.

Background information

- [The Power of Reading](#)
Florence Martin reviews Stephen D. Krashen's book *The Power of Reading: Insights from the Research*.
- [Frequently asked questions](#)
Find out about getting started, TPRS materials, and classroom environment.
- [TPRS at work](#)
Eavesdrop on a TPRS teacher workshop by Jason Fritze and Project COACH.

TPRS tools to download

- [Story board](#)
- [Scrabble grid](#)
- [Reflection during reading](#)
- [Point of view](#)
- [An open mind](#)
- [Once upon a time](#)
- [Map of the story](#)

- [Jelly Bean Journal](#)
- [Crazy Story](#)
- [Character portrait](#)
- [Categories](#)

Teachers' websites about TPRS

These sites provide tips, downloadable tools, and links to further resources for TPRS. Most of the teachers offer TPRS workshops.

- [Scott Benedict](#)
- [Jason Fritze](#)
- [Stephen Krashen](#)
- [Carol Gaab](#)
- [Susan Gross](#)
- [Michael Miller](#)
- [Blaine Ray](#)
- [Karen Rowan](#)
- [Carmen Andrews-Sanchez](#)
- [Betty Segal Cook](#)
- [Beth Skelton](#)
- [Ben Slavic](#)
- [Michael Wood](#)
- [Thomas Young](#)

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