



# Guided reading worksheet

## Chapter 10

### Issues

Give each of the following statements a score from 0 (I totally disagree) to 5 (I agree 100%). Think about why you have chosen your score and note down the main reasons.

- 1 One-to-one teaching is always more effective in terms of learning impact than teaching in large classes.
- 2 The specific activity the students are engaged in, together with the dynamics in the class, should determine how students are grouped – at least as much as the learning objective itself.
- 3 The students, not the teacher, should be allowed to decide which form of class organisation is used.
- 4 Pairing students according to the teacher’s preconceived notions about them is akin to social engineering. The advantages of random pairing far outweigh any disadvantages when considering how to put students into pairs or small groups.
- 5 Equal participation during groupwork activities is always the goal for fluency activities. It is unacceptable for the louder voices to dominate.

### Discuss

If you have someone to discuss these issues with, find out what scores they have chosen. If they are different from yours, talk about why this is and find out where you agree and disagree. Look at Chapter 10 again and see how far your opinions and arguments are supported.

### Check

- 1** List three advantages of working with the whole class rather than doing individual or pairwork activities. How far do you think you maximise these advantages in your own teaching context? Why?

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- 2** What can teachers do to ensure that the students have understood their instructions before a groupwork activity begins?

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- 3** Note down four different seating arrangements for large classes, and one specific advantage of each.

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**4** Name three techniques which a teacher can use to enable individualised learning in large classes.

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## Evaluate

**5** What do you see as the main advantage and disadvantage of pairwork?

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**6** What advantages does groupwork have over pairwork?

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**7** What criteria do you apply when putting students into mixed groups? Why? What are their advantages and disadvantages?

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## Action

**8** Think about ways to vary the mix of your groups according to different criteria, e.g. language ability, psychology, communication style, technical skills, interpersonal skills, etc. Try two or three of them out in different lessons. Observe what happens in each case, and use these observations to develop an understanding of how to use the mixed abilities in your classes more effectively.

**9** Record yourself in your next class and listen to the instructions which you give to set up different activities. Rate yourself from 1–10 (one is low, ten is high) according to the following criteria:

- Clarity and simplicity of language
- Motivational and energising tone of voice
- Effective use of 'check' mechanisms, e.g. getting the students to model the exercise or explain back aloud what the class has to do
- Positive impact on the class (were your instructions understood and acted upon)

**Use your self-rating as a basis to improve the efficiency and success of the instructions you give your students.**

**If you can, discuss your observations and conclusions with a colleague or colleagues to gain deeper insight into your own teaching practice and to identify ways in which you can improve your use of instructions in the future.**

- 1 (Suggested answers)
  - 1 Whole-class teaching can build a sense of camaraderie, fun and energy.
  - 2 It is an efficient way for the teacher to communicate simple instructions and explanations to a large number of people.
  - 3 It can be a preferred method for learners who are used to learning under a strongly instructional lockstep approach.
- 2 (Suggested answers)
  - 1 The teacher can demonstrate the activity with a student.
  - 2 The teacher can ask the students to repeat back the instructions which they have to follow.
- 3 (Suggested answers)
  - 1 Orderly row
  - 2 Advantage: The teacher has a clear view of the students – and the students can all see the teacher.
  - 2 Circle
  - 3 Advantage: Creates a sense of equality and joint responsibility for learning.
  - 3 Horseshoe
  - 4 Advantage: Creates a relaxed and intimate feel, particularly if the tables are removed.
  - 4 Separate tables
- 4 (Suggested answers)
  - 1 Students can be asked to read a text alone and answer questions individually.
  - 2 Different and personalised tasks can be given to individual students.
  - 3 Students can conduct their own research independently.
- 5 (Suggested answers)
  - 1 Advantage: Dramatically increases speaking time for students in large classes
  - 2 Disadvantage: Difficult for a teacher to monitor the performance of students in tasks
- 6 (Suggested answers)
  - 1 Groupwork encourages broader skills of cooperation and negotiation than pairwork does.
  - 2 Groupwork allows greater variety of input and opinion during activities than pairwork does.
- 7 (Suggested answers)
  - 1 Ability can usefully be thought of in terms of:
    - 1 linguistic ability
    - 2 communication skills, e.g. confident about presenting versus nervous about presenting
    - 3 intercultural competence, e.g. knowledge of different parts of the world
    - 4 professional skills, e.g. knowledge of finance versus human resources
    - 5 interpersonal skills, e.g. good at conflict management versus very direct communicator