



Chapter 1 Minimal Pairs Lesson Plan

L/R Initial Position Minimal Pairs

Warm-up: Intro to L/R pronunciation

Brainstorm- Write the letter L on one side of the board, and the letter R on the other. Elicit from students as many words as possible that begin with each letter, and list them under the appropriate category on the board.

Then go through each list, saying all the words. Next use hand gestures to explain the difference:

- When producing an L sound, the tongue touches the roof of the mouth, and laps downward.
- When producing an r sound, the lips purse slightly, and the tongue DOES NOT touch the roof of the mouth.

Go through each list again to demonstrate.

Guess the letter

Introduce students to some L/R minimal pairs. (Right/Light, Raw/Law, etc) Have students go to page 7 of the text. Explain the rules of the exercise

Go through the exercise letting students look at your mouth moves. (Tell students for an extra challenge to try and do it without looking).

Next, partner students up with each other, and have them go through the exercise again.

Monitor to make sure they are getting it, and jump in on occasion.

Guess the number

Have students go to page 8 of the text. Review the minimal pairs on the sheet. Explain to students that they are to listen, to each word as you go through the rows, and try and guess the final number you end up at. Do it a few times, having them guess as a group. (Allowing them to watch your mouth).

After that, partner them up, and have them do it with each other. After 3 successful guesses, on each side, have them switch partners and go through it again with someone else.

Tongue Twister Dialog

Have the following dialog written on the board.

Go through it once having students repeat after you. Then try as A, with the class as B, and vice versa. Lastly, partner students up, and have them go through it with each other, switching roles. If there is still time left, have them go through it again.

A: Which light is the right light?

B: The wrong light is the long light on the right.

A: So, the right light is the long light on the right?

B: Nooooo, the long light on the left is the right light. The long light on the right is the wrong light.