

Teacher professional development session – Script

Creating opportunities to provide feedback on speaking

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Hello, I'm [name] and in this session we're going to look at how you can use digital tools to provide learners with personalised feedback on their speaking. We're going to use ChatterPix in this session, but before we try it out, let's have a look at the opportunities the tool gives us to provide feedback to learners ...

OK, if everyone's ready, let's continue ...

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First of all, do any of these problems sound familiar?:

- Learners are uncomfortable speaking in the classroom.
- There's not enough time to set up engaging speaking activities.
- It's hard to monitor all learners' speaking.
- It's hard to provide useful feedback to all learners.

Do you experience these or any other problems when you're helping learners to develop their speaking skills? (Allow time for discussion.)

Unfortunately, these are common issues. Large class sizes in particular often prevent us from monitoring speaking effectively and following up with personalised feedback. This session looks at how we can use technology to help to overcome some of these issues.

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First, let's imagine that you are teaching a group of 30 learners aged 14 or 15. They are studying a B1-level course and you see them for 2 hours a week. For most of the class, speaking is the weakest skill and, perhaps because of this, they are also reluctant to speak in class. However, there are a small group of learners who are more able and more confident.

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This class is studying the topic of holidays. In their speaking lesson, they are going to plan and present a 'made-to-measure' summer holiday for a family with a particular set of requirements.

This lesson would run through the following stages:

- Lead in
- Useful language
- Controlled language practice
- Freer language practice – the speaking activity

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Now, the main part of this lesson – the speaking activity – looks like this. Learners have to design a holiday and provide details of destination, accommodation and possible activities. However, ...

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... for a little added challenge we have some requests. This holiday is for a large family group so there are different interests that need to be catered to – as you can see here.

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For a task like this, one of the simplest ways for individual learners to get feedback on their speaking performance is to record it. Learners can do this with the audio recorder on a computer or other device, or by using an online voice recorder, but there are also digital tools that can make voice recording a lot more fun for learners. This can help learners to lose some of their anxiety about speaking, and also motivate them to repeat their performance until they have captured their best attempt.

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Today we're going to look at an app called ChatterPix. It's really simple to use, and it allows you to create talking pictures like this one – You take a picture, draw a mouth on it, and then record audio to create a short video. When you press play, you hear the recording and the mouth moves! Learners can watch and rerecord and they can share their video.

The fun use of a talking image can reduce performance anxiety and promote engagement and repetition of the task. And, of course, learners can work in pairs or groups to support each other.

More confident learners can be more creative, or we can add other constraints, such as time limit.

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Recording can be transformative in helping learners improve their speaking. All learners get to speak multiple times. Through the process of recording, listening and rerecording, learners can improve even before receiving feedback from the teacher – especially if you train learners to use criteria to evaluate their performance. And you can monitor and provide assistance throughout.

Peers can provide a real response to what they hear – is it funny?; do they understand? – and a second opportunity to identify what works and where the problems lie.

After recording, the class can share successes and problems and get advice on language and strategies before rerecording and sharing their final piece with the teacher.

So, you, the teacher, have a lot of recordings to provide feedback on! But by this point, the learners will have had plenty of opportunity to improve their speaking based on their own, peer and class evaluation. And if you don't have time to listen to them all, you could choose a smaller group of learners to listen to each week.

It's great if you can use and share criteria here to focus on what you think each learner has achieved and what you want them to focus on next time. You can find speaking scales in handbooks for Cambridge English qualifications to help you create suitable evaluation criteria for your class.

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So, now it's your turn. Let's explore ChatterPix so you can get a better feel for it. You would start in class with learners planning out what they want to say, but we're going to get familiar with the app first. I'll talk you through this step by step.

So first, open the app. Now the rest is very simple – you can see here the steps for creating and sharing a video.

1. You start with the menu screen. Choose TAKE PHOTO.
2. On the next screen you can either choose an existing image or you can take a new photo. (Today please select an image from the ones provided in the album.) Select NEXT.
3. Now, touch the image and draw a mouth.
4. Then tap on the microphone to record. You can play and record as many times as you like. Select NEXT.
5. Decorate your image. Drag and drop the stickers where you want them. Use two fingers to resize. Select NEXT.
6. Play the video. You can select BACK if you want to go back and change anything or, if you're happy, select the share icon in the bottom-right-hand corner of the screen.
7. You can email the video or you can save it to the gallery. In class, if learners save in the gallery, they can upload to their school drive or learning platform or to a noticeboard like Padlet so that you can put all videos in one place.

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I hope you found this session useful and will try out ChatterPix or another voice-recording tool to provide opportunities for your learners to get more feedback on their speaking. To help you get started, you can download a lesson plan for the materials that we have looked at today from The Digital Teacher.

Thank you.