

Language Learning and Teaching

The Cloze Listening Exercise

A cloze is a listening and writing exercise. The student does not say anything during the exercise. The teacher reads the text to the student; the student listens and writes. After the student has completed the exercise, the teacher can use the topic to begin a discussion in the class or to give a writing assignment.

Choose the text.

- Write your own text or choose a paragraph or short story to make into a cloze. You can also use songs that are recorded, however songs are the most difficult kind of listening exercise because the vowel sounds are stretched out.
- Choose a text that is relevant to your students in both topic and grammar.
- Make two copies of the text: one copy is the teacher's text that he reads from. The second copy will be made into a cloze exercise.

Make the cloze.

- Replace every seventh to tenth word with a blank line. If every seventh word is omitted it is a more difficult exercise because the student will have to write more quickly. If every tenth word is omitted, it is easier because the student has more time to write the missing word.
- The blank lines should all be the same length so that the student can't guess if the word is long or short.
- Double space the text.
- Number the blanks.
- Make a photocopy of the cloze for your student; keep the original to copy later for other students.
- Make an answer key with answers that are numbered to correspond to the blank lines.

Teach the cloze.

- Give your student the cloze exercise.
- Tell him to listen carefully and to write the words that are missing from the blanks.
- Read the teacher's text at a normal speed while the student writes the missing words in the blanks.
- Tell your student to listen again and to check and correct his work.
- Read the text again so that your student can hear the pronunciation of the words that he missed.
- Read the text a third time if the student needs it, or go on to the next step.
- Answer your student's questions about words in the text that he doesn't understand.
- Allow the student to check and correct his own work by using the Answer Key.
- Discuss the content of the text.

Practice with the example cloze. Ask a friend to read this page to you while you write the missing words in the blanks in the text on the next page. The answers to the cloze are below.

© 2007 by Şirin

Answer Key for the cloze on the next page	3. the	9. are	15. seventh	21. student	27. him	33. words
	4. the	10. vowel	16. seventh	22. Double	28. are	34. if
	5. a	11. relevant	17. because	23. of	29. a	35. next
	6. assignment	12. two	18. tenth	24. copy	30. in	36. text
1. and	7. a	13. text	19. has	25. answers	31. to	37. and
2. the	8. You	14. made	20. lines	26. Teach	32. so	38. Discuss

The Cloze Listening Exercise

A cloze is a listening _____ writing exercise. The student does not say anything during _____ exercise. The teacher reads the text to the student; _____ student listens and writes. After the student has completed _____ exercise, the teacher can use the topic to begin _____ discussion in the class or to give a writing _____.

Choose the text. Write your own text or choose _____ paragraph or short story to make into a cloze. _____ can also use songs that are recorded, however songs _____ the most difficult kind of listening exercise because the _____ sounds are stretched out. Choose a text that is _____ to your students in both topic and grammar. Make _____ copies of the text: one copy is the teacher's _____ that he reads from. The second copy will be _____ into a cloze exercise.

Make the cloze. Replace every _____ to tenth word with a blank line. If every _____ word is omitted it is a more difficult exercise _____ the student will have to write more quickly. If every _____ word is omitted, it is easier because the student _____ more time to write the missing word. The blank _____ should all be the same length so that the _____ can't guess if the word is long or short. _____ space the text. Number the blanks. Make a photocopy _____ the cloze for your student; keep the original to _____ later with other students. Make an answer key with _____ that are numbered to correspond to the blank lines.

_____ **the cloze.** Give your student the cloze exercise. Tell _____ to listen carefully and to write the words that _____ missing from the blanks. Read the teacher's text at _____ normal speed while the student writes the missing words _____ the blanks. Tell your student to listen again and _____ check and correct his work. Read the text again _____ that your student can hear the pronunciation of the _____ that he missed. Read the text a third time _____ the student needs it, or go on to the _____ step. Answer your student's questions about words in the _____ that he doesn't understand. Allow the student to check _____ correct his own work by using the Answer Key. _____ the content of the text.