

Highly Varied Proficiency Levels in The Same Classroom:
Differentiated Instruction as a Means of Effective Language Teaching
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Group Collaborations in Class - Differentiated Tasks

Teaching Tool: bCourses Pages

- Assists with organization
- Useful to collect easily accessible teaching materials
- Can be modified and adapted to different student levels and imported to other courses
- Interactive: A collection of teaching tools and external links, available to all students

Unit: Unusual Winter Weather Events in Hungary

The goal for all students: Improving language competence and cultural awareness

Students' collaboration can be instructor or student organized, based on their language proficiency

- Close to their language level
 - Where students work within or slightly above/below their language levels
- Different language levels
 - Where the more advanced students can help the less advanced ones
 - Where students work for a common goal and share the tasks based on their interests or language abilities

1. Examples of Group Collaborations: Different language levels, different tasks

Novice High / Intermediate Low

- Goals: Creating simple, connected sentences and asking questions related to the video and the photos. Preparing students for their final presentation
- Aim: Intermediate Low level

Task 1

- Collect words related to winter weathers.
- Collaborate on creating a Quizlet file. (Link to Quizlet file)

Task 2

- Create a short presentation, using Google Slides, related to Hungarian winter weathers. (Link to Google Slides)
- Share the following tasks with your classmates:
 - Collect images for illustration.
 - What is happening in the video and in the photos you gathered?
 - At the end of the class, present slides

Intermediate Mid / Intermediate High

- Goals: Telling a story, narrating and describing (mainly) in the past
- Aim: Intermediate High Level

Task

- Collaborate on writing a letter to your fellow Hungarian classmates who couldn't join you at the event of "Balaton átcsúszás."
- Narrate what occurred there, giving as many details as possible. (Link to Google Doc)
- Share your letter with your classmates.

Advanced Mid / Advanced High

- Goal: Talk about a topic of social relevance
- Aim: Advanced High Level

Task:

- People traveled not just from Hungary, but also from other countries to participate in this event, and more than five thousand people completed the 5 km trip across the frozen lake. What drew so many people there? Why did they participate in such an event? How do you think the people related to each other when they completed the same goal? What is the social impact?
- Create talking points. (Link to Google Doc)
- Talk about these questions as if you were at a company meeting in Budapest, in terms of you needing to express and support your opinion.

2. Examples of Group Collaborations: Mixed levels, the same task

Mixed levels

- Goal: Telling a story
- Aim: Improving or strengthening students' language levels

Task

- Create a skit. Imagine that you all are at the "Balaton átcsúszás" event.
- In the middle of the lake, unexpectedly, you meet with your classmates. Tell each other your story, how did you get there, what happened since the beginning and ask a good number of questions to your friends. (Link to Google Doc)
- At the end of the class, perform the skit.

Mixed levels

- Goal: Creating a shared presentation
- Aim: : Improving or strengthening students' language levels

Task

- Collaborate on the presentation based on what you learned in this unit and add other related materials you have found. (Link to Google Slides)
- Give an in-class presentation. Take turns as you present your slides.