

SANAKO Lab: Instant Lessons

Sometimes in our busy lives, we don't have time to prep the "perfect" language lab lesson. If you find yourself scheduled for the lab, but are running short of planning time, feel free to try one of these emergency, low-stress lesson ideas. These activities allow students to gain useful "time-on-task" using the listening/speaking/recording versatility of the language lab, but require minimal teacher preparation beforehand.



Customer Service

One student pretends to be a shop owner/sales clerk/waiter/information kiosk helper. Another student pretends to be a customer. The customer "calls" and asks for directions/menu information/pricing/etc.

Radio Ad

Pair or small groups write a radio ad for a product or location. After their script is complete, they record their ad. Students can add background music they find online if they want. The teacher can play the ads back to the class if desired.



Pronunciation Practice

Individuals can read a list of words or a sample passage aloud, and record their speaking. Then, while listening to their own reading, they can score/reflect/evaluate their pronunciation and accent. If desired, students can trade seats to listen to each others' recordings.

Write the Subtitles

Have students watch an online video, such as an episode of a children's show. As they watch, they can start/stop the video, and write English subtitles for the show.



20 Questions

In small groups, one student (in their language) says "I'm thinking of an animal/food/classmate..." and the others have Yes/No questions to guess the answer.