



Say that again?

Repeating repetition.

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Repeating – rejected and forgotten?

- Has “repeat” become a dirty word in EFL?
- Is it just whispered in the depths of the staff room in fear that the DoS or Manager will hear you use it?

Come out of the closet!!

- **We never say anything once in life and students will naturally repeat and rehearse phrases before they go into a train station/office/restaurant etc**
- **Therefore, why not in the classroom, too?**

Things for the classroom

- **Drills**
- **Jazz Chants**
- **Questionnaires**
- **Pronunciation journeys**
- **Minimal pair games**
- **Card games**
- **“I insist” / Me myselfes I**

Drills – 2-3 minutes of zappiness

- **Standard – stimulus/repeat**
- **Mumble**
- **The slow reveal**
- **Backchaining**
- **Q&A drills**
- **“Deaf granny”**

However:

- Don't think that repetition needs only to be the single form.
- I think we can move into semi-controlled repetition
- Eg: a questionnaire based on the stem of "How often do you....?" // "When did you last...?" etc

We don't just have to repeat language

- **Why not repeat an activity?**
- **“speed dating” type interactions?**
- **Role plays**
- **Mingling activities**

- **Or just moving the students so that they repeat conversations**

**This is very good for fluency
and confidence**

Procedures - alternatives

- **When you think that pairs are coming to a natural end, why not have a quick round-up of mistakes/useful language that you heard and then move one of each pair round one place?**
- **Then they repeat the conversation**

Variation

- **Students have to quickly summarise their previous conversations (reported speech and tense manipulation practice).**
- **Then they start a fresh conversation with that partner.**

“Spaced repetition”

- In the classroom we repeat language very quickly through our chosen activities.

- However:

Spaced repetition is the notion of repeating (or reviewing) new language regularly after a longer period – 20 minutes (a quick review at the end of the class for example)

Spaced Repetition 2

- **At the end of the week – review the week etc**
- **For the students, we should be encouraging them to review and repeat the language in their files on a daily basis – homework is the obvious review but “little and often” is very important too!**



Let's try out a few ideas...