

Cloze Instruction

The instructional cloze is a technique to develop comprehension by deleting target words from a text. This encourages the student to think about what word would make sense in this sentence as well as the context of the entire story.

Major Reading Tasks It Develops

- Comprehension
- Context clues
- Predicting words using sentence meaning

Procedure

- 1.** The teacher selects a text of 200-400 words.
- 2.** The teacher decides on the target words.
- 3.** The teacher systematically deletes the words from the paragraph and inserts a blank for the deleted word.
- 4.** The student is instructed to read the entire passage to get a sense of the entire meaning.
- 5.** Then the student is instructed to fill in the blanks in the passage.
- 6.** When the student finishes filling in the blanks, the student's answers are evaluated as to the similarity of meaning between the actual word and the supplied word.
- 7.** The student reviews his choices and talks about what strategies he used to decide on his word choices.

Modifications

- 1.** An oral cloze can be used to develop predictive listening.
- 2.** A cloze exercise can be constructed from language experience stories in order to develop the ability to predict a word by using prior knowledge (what I said) and the text (how I said it).