



THE LANGUAGE COURSE

7.2 TBLT

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Something that we would love to introduce to you guys, it's been around for a little while, it's called Task Based Language Teaching, or TBLT for short. What it basically is, is it takes a task, which has been defined a dozen different ways, but can be summed up as this: A task is something you do in real life. So you take a task like ordering food, or going to the grocery store, or changing a tire, or explaining why your favorite football team is the best. You take that task and then you make it something to learn another language in.

So instead of explaining why you believe a certain football team's better than other football teams in English, you could take that and try to explain it to Spanish speakers who will argue that football is played with the feet, not with the hands.

Remember that tasks are things we do in real life that we can bring into our language study and unpack systematically in order to understand more about the language in a very practical way, which is nice.

The first step in Task Based Language Teaching is figuring out what you want to do. So you can choose from a range of everyday activities. Like some of the examples I gave before, or it could be something even more practical, like describing to a child how to tie their shoe in another language. Maybe that's not the best example of a simple task, because it's hard to do in our native language, but it is a task that you can take on if you feel challenged to do so.

Other examples of tasks can include filling out documents in foreign languages. It could include inviting people to coffee; It can include teaching a class. So the range of tasks depends on what you do in everyday life. And if you're able to connect it to things you do in real life, the more practical it is for you, and the more interested you'll be in the task itself. So it maintains a high interest because they are things that you do in life.

So in the next series of videos, we're going to unpack a task, which is learning to talk about family at a child's birthday party in Spanish. Dr. Nolan will take that task in the next series of videos.