

**Unit Title:** Unknown Language

**Level:** 5

**Unit Description:**

This unit covers teaching methodologies and activities appropriate for beginner learners of a language, through little or no use of their first language (L1). It also introduces lesson planning and contrastive analysis. The unknown language will be a natural language, i.e. not an invented or computer language, and this language should be one previously unfamiliar to all of the trainees on the course. Depending on the context and the learners, the teacher may or may not choose to make use of a shared L1 as appropriate and relevant to language and pedagogic objectives.

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**Indicative Content:**

Trainees will be given four hours of tuition in an unknown language, with a bias towards the aural–oral in the teaching of that language. In addition, the tuition will be:

- delivered in sessions of approximately one hour
- at beginner level
- given by an experienced teacher
- in a communicative context
- in the initial stages of the course

Trainees see in practice some of the methodology and approaches introduced in Unit 1. They establish and record their feelings and experiences as learners, and the ways in which different methods and techniques result in successful learning, through a written, assessed journal.

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**Learning and Teaching Methods:**

For each lesson, the journal should include as a minimum:

1. An account of the grammatical, functional and lexical objectives of the lesson, as perceived by the trainee
2. Broad details of the methods used by the teacher including use of activities and materials, interactive patterns and class-management techniques
3. A reflection on the nature of the learning experience and on which teaching methods and attitudes suited the learning preferences of the trainee and others in the group

The overall journal should also include a brief description of some of the contrastive features of English and the taught language.

At the end of the series of lessons, trainees must produce a summary of the overall experience that reflects their professional evaluation of this unit and the teaching methodology used. The summary must be a considered statement that goes beyond comment on the trainee’s personal difficulties, and must include what they will take forward into their own teaching.

**Unit Learning Outcomes**

*On successful completion of this unit you will have demonstrated:*

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**LO 1** | Awareness of the learning experiences and feelings of a learner being taught a new language, with little or no use of the learner's first language

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**LO 2** | Ability to identify the aims and objectives of the lesson and the ways in which these were or were not achieved through the methodology, materials and class management techniques employed

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**LO 3** | Awareness of a few of the main elementary contrastive features of the taught language and of English

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*Information correct at point of publication.*