

Title: Effective Use of Task-Based Instruction in the Teaching of Russian

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The presentation will demonstrate how various types of task-based instruction can be effectively used in teaching Russian. The relationships between authentic input and output and between linguistic, sociolinguistic and extralinguistic aspects of communicative competence will be emphasized. Participants will gain insight into various methods of task and skills integration.

Presenters will discuss methods to build up students' proficiency level by means of incorporating authentic, spontaneous video materials into their language studies and performing chain task-based activities involving pair work and group work. These activities will include brainstorming, schema building, word/body-language association, information gap, problem-solving, and spontaneous communication.

The presentation will also demonstrate such online pre-interpretation tasks as prediction, word association, word pairing and collocations, and such interpretation strategies as parsing, paraphrasing, key meaning, speech pattern transfer, and relevant, formative feedback. Authentic DLI Curriculum Division WTE (Weekly Training Events) samples will illustrate how to predict and manipulate both rich cultural input and output in the target language before actual interpretation begins. Contents of sample "Bridge" and online WTE lessons will be shown. Audience participation will be encouraged.