


Facilitating greater student choice and autonomy in language learning

Marnie Foster, Head of Languages, Newington College, NSW




What are the key learner dispositions or habits of mind we need to develop in our students?

- Persisting [not giving up]
- Thinking flexibly [and creatively]
- Thinking about thinking [metacognition]
- Striving for accuracy [taking pride in our work]
- Questioning and posing problems
- Applying past knowledge to new situations
- Creating, Imagining, Innovating
- Thinking Interdependently [collaborate with others]
- Remain open to continuous learning



What does more student choice and autonomy look like?



- * Less rigid lesson planning
- * Less of being the teacher out the front and more of working alongside students
- * More talking 'with students' rather than 'at students'
- * Students taking an active role in their learning
- * Also known as 'learner-led', 'self-directed'
- * Can include 'PBL', enquiry-based learning



What it isn't!



- * Free-for-all lessons without structure or direction
- * Sitting back as the teacher and letting students do all of the work
- * Easier work for teachers – it does require some additional planning and preparation prior to commencing a unit of work
- * Removing all teacher-directed learning – there is still a place for direct and explicit instruction
- * Appropriate for every lesson or every unit of work or assessment



Why should we give students more choice and autonomy?

- * Develops high self-management skills
- * Make students more self-aware as learners
- * Makes learning more personal
- * Creates a culture of collaboration

The slide features a central text area surrounded by ten clusters of colorful, teardrop-shaped graphics. These shapes are in various colors including yellow, orange, pink, blue, and teal, and are arranged in a circular pattern around the text. The main title is in a large, pink, sans-serif font.

What does this look like in assessment?

Examples from practice



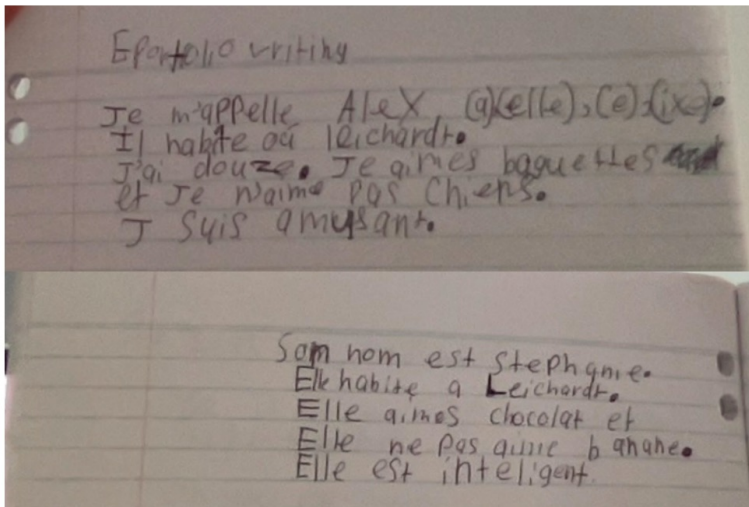
What does the research say about meaningful assessment?

“An educative assessment system is designed to teach—to improve performance (of student and teacher) and evoke exemplary pedagogy. It is built on the bedrock of meaningful performance tasks that are credible and realistic (authentic), hence engaging to students” (p.12).

Wiggins (1998)

Writing - composing

Tuesday, February 23, 2021 5:26 AM



Speaking - composing

Tuesday, February 23, 2021 5:26 AM



Eportfolio
speaking 2



Speaking
portfolio

ePortfolio

8

Reading - Accessing and Responding

Friday, 22 January 2021 2:28 pm

Reflection Questions:

1. What strategies can I use to help me identify key ideas in written texts?
2. How are these similar/different to the strategies for comprehending spoken texts?

Answers:

1. Look at the characters I already know and use them to form context for the reading passage.
2. I can do the same thing with speech, by identifying key words that I already know and using these to understand what the person is speaking about.

Textbook p2 Qu3 Reading

Due No due date Points 8 Questions 1 Time Limit None

Instructions

Complete the questions

Attempt History

	Attempt	Time	Score
LATEST	Attempt 1	less than 1 minute	8 out of 8

Language Systems

Friday, 22 January 2021 2:29 pm

Reflection Questions:

1. How does the Chinese language system compare to other languages I know?

Answers:

1. The Chinese language system compares to other languages by using a variety of symbols to communicate meaning. It is different from my native language, English, as it has no alphabet system which I use to understand pronunciation of words I haven't seen before. It is similar to other character based languages like Japanese or even Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics, as each character design is derived from images of the relevant idea.



character
parts of wo

Meaning of Characters. I loved your explanations here

Project-based Learning Task: open your own restaurant

Stages of Task Completion:

- In groups, research one Chinese regional cuisine, including geographical, climatic, cultural etc influences. Find 10 dishes from that region in both Chinese and English. Come up with a name for the restaurant in Chinese and English. Develop a presentation.
- Create a bilingual menu for the restaurant
- Create either a cooking demonstration for one item on the menu or a waiting tables demonstration to be used for staff training.
- Shark Tank style bid to present and promote restaurant idea and materials.



面类-NOODLES		肉类-MEAT	
担担面- Dan dan noodles	¥85	宫保鸡丁- Kung Pao Chicken	¥125
炒面- Fried Noodles	¥75	麻婆豆腐- Mapo tofu	¥60
汤面- Soup Noodles	¥75	糖醋排骨- Sweet and sour pork	¥110
辣牛肉面- Spicy Beef Noodles	¥100	炸鸡- Fried chicken	¥80
鸡蛋面- Egg noodles	¥55	叉烧猪肉- BBQ pork	¥90
饭类-RICE		饮料-BEVERAGES	
鸡肉炒饭- Chicken Fried rice	¥40	绿茶- green tea	¥10
四川炒饭- Sichuan fried rice	¥45	黄茶- yellow tea	¥5
米饭- Plain rice	¥20	白茶- white tea	¥100
虾仁炒饭- Shrimp fried rice	¥40	乌龙茶- oolong tea	¥10
		红茶- black tea	¥5
		王老吉- Wanglaoji	¥10
		苏打- Assorted cans	¥5

NOODLES	
湖南米粉- Hunan Rice Noodles	40
湖南面香辣酱- Hunan noodles with spicy meat sauce	30
湘式手工鸡蛋面- Handmade egg noodles Hunan-style	40
FISH	
酱椒蒸鱼头- Steamed fish head with pickled pepper sauce	50
红烧鳊鱼黄瓜- Braised eel with cucumber	50
黄焖鳊鱼- Yellow-cooked salt cod in chili sauce	40
回锅肉- Twice cooked pork	70
橙花鸡- Orange chicken	60
麻婆豆腐- Mapo Doufu	60
宫保鸡丁- Kung Pao Chicken	60
北京烤鸭- Peking duck	70
酸甜咕咾肉- Sweet and sour pork	70
煎焗鸡- Cantonese "Fry Roast" Chicken	70
叉烧- BBQ Roast Pork	60
毛氏红烧肉- Mao's braised pork	50
黑豆和辣椒蒸排骨- Steamed pork ribs with black beans and chili	40
SOUPS	
湖南酸辣汤- Hunan Hot and Sour Soup	50
湖南扇贝汤- Hunan Scallop Soup	50
湖南鱼汤- Hunan Fish Soup	40
汤面- Noodle Soup	60
DRINKS	
Water 水	5
Coca Cola 可口可乐	10
RICE	
湖南米粉- Hunan Rice Noodles	40
米饭- boiled rice	30
炒饭- fried rice	30

The slide features a central text area surrounded by various colorful teardrop and oval shapes in shades of yellow, orange, pink, blue, and teal. These shapes are scattered across the slide, some appearing in small groups and others as single elements, creating a vibrant and playful background.

What does more choice and autonomy
look like in our lesson structure and
learning activities?

Examples from practice



[Classkick Chapter 1 Link](#)

See Nearpod for Lesson Activities 1.1

Vocabulary - shēngcí

Numbers vocabulary list:

[numbers 0-100 vocabulary list.pdf](#)

Character practice sheets to print and practise:

[1.1汉子练习1.pdf](#)

[1.1汉子练习2.pdf](#)

What else can we do with number? Extension!!!

[What can we do with numbers in Chinese.docx](#)

Practising numbers through online games:

[Education Perfect Numbers 1-10](#)

[Education Perfect Numbers 11-20](#)

[Wordwall numbers - pinyin](#)

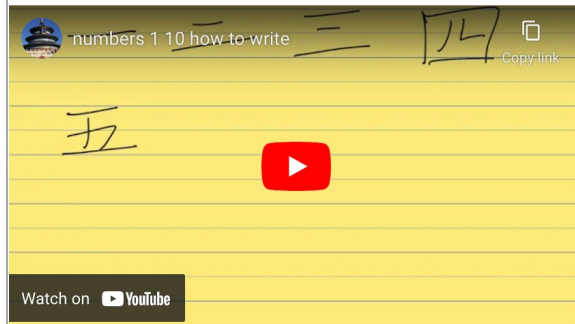
[Wordwall numbers - characters](#)

Unit Learning Paths

Understanding Language - liǎojiě yǔyán

[Strategies for learning characters](#)

[Introduction to Chinese Language](#)



[Classkick link to Chapter Additional Activities Booklet](#)

shēngcí - vocabulary

[EP basic words food list](#)

Duolingo food lists

gē - songs



jiāoliu - interacting

role plays and other speaking activities in class

tingli hé yuèdú - accessing and responding

[Textbook p72 Q1 Listening](#)

[Textbook p72 Q2 Reading](#)

[Textbook p73 Q3 Speaking](#)

[Textbook p73 Q4 Listening](#)

liǎojiě yǔyán - understanding the language system



进步2, Chapter 2.1 Learning Road Map

A visual road map of the learning program

START HERE

- Complete the following tasks:
 - learn the core vocabulary
 - master the core grammar
 - complete the Textbook activities
 - complete the workbook activities
 - write a description of yourself, a family member or friend in characters
 - complete a formative test

1

NEXT



Following completion of the tasks outlined in 1, you will be taken to ONE of the following:

- activities which focus on consolidation of the newly learnt language

OR



- activities which expand your vocabulary combined with further consolidation of the previously learnt language

OR

- activities which expand on your grammar combined with further consolidation of previously learnt language

3

END HERE

- Complete the following:
 - End of unit formative test
 - End of unit formative speaking and writing task

Differentiated Learning Paths



<p>Vocabulary 生词</p> <p>Jinbu2 2.1 Vocabulary list.pdf [read through the list]</p> <p>2.1 vocabulary list wordfind.pdf </p> <p>2.1 matching characters and english.pdf </p> <p>Word Hunt Game </p> <p>Word Strike Game </p> <p>Jinbu 2 Activity Book p32 Qu2.1.8</p> <p>Gimkit Jinbu 2 2.1 https://www.gimkit.com/play/5ef13c5a52d991002271fb3b/5d313936f725280020742af3 </p> <p>Duolingo - self-paced learning</p>	<p>Grammar 语法</p> <p>Read 2.1 grammar notes</p> <p>Textbook p25 Grammar: omitting the noun</p> <p>Jinbu 2 Activity Book p32 Qu2.1.9</p> <p>Textbook p24 Grammar: yes/no questions</p> <p>Jinbu 2 Activity Book p30 Qu2.1.5</p>
<p>Listening 听</p> <p>Textbook p24 Qu1&2 Listening</p> <p>Textbook p24 Qu3 Listening</p>	<p>Speaking 说</p> <p>Complete 2.1 Speaking Activity</p> <p>Complete 2 practice conversations with 老师</p> <p>Jinbu 2 Activity Book p31 Qu2.1.6</p>
<p>Reading 读</p> <p>2.1 Chi-Eng definitions.pdf </p> <p>Complete 2.1 Reading Activity</p> <p>Textbook p25 Qu5 Reading</p> <p>Jinbu 2 Activity Book p28 Qu2.1.1 & 2.1.2</p> <p>Jinbu 2 Activity Book p33 Qu2.1.10</p>	<p>Writing 写</p> <p>Jinbu 2 Activity Book p29 Qu2.1.3 & 2.1.4</p> <p>2.1 vocabulary 汉字练习 character practice.pdf </p> <p>2.1 Eng-Chi definitions.pdf </p> <p>Jinbu 2 Activity Book p31 Qu2.1.7</p> <p>Complete 2.1 Writing Test - English to Chinese for the vocabulary we have learnt</p>
<p>Culture 文化</p> <p>2.1 Cultural connotations of words</p> <p>Edpuzzle: Four Great Beauties of Chinese history [see Edpuzzle link on side bar]</p> <p>Edpuzzle: Four hottest guys in Chinese history [see Edpuzzle link on side bar]</p>	<p>Formative Test 小考</p> <p>Make sure 老师 has signed off that all activities are completed, Then</p> <p>See 老师 when you are ready to do the test. This includes:</p> <p>1 x EP vocabulary and grammar test which practises Listening, speaking and reading</p> <p>1 x Vocabulary Test focussing on English - Chinese</p>



Languages 饮茶 / à la carte lessons



- * Students are given a 'menu' of activities to choose from
- * These may have a skills focus and/or a content focus
- * Students may be required to complete a set number of tasks
- * Some tasks may be compulsory – like 'tea' in 'yumcha' or choosing an 'entrée', 'main' and 'dessert'
- * Teacher works with small group or individual students



The Impact

- * Richer and student-initiated conversations about learning
- * Students requesting learning activities, resources and supports to help their learning
- * Increased student responsibility for their learning
 - * Increased focus on skills and strategies
- * Increased confidence in students to continue their languages learning journey
 - * Increased collaboration among students



Give students more choice and autonomy over their learning and they will develop following habits of mind:

- Persisting [not giving up]
- Thinking flexibly [and creatively]
- Thinking about thinking [metacognition]
- Striving for accuracy [taking pride in our work]
- Questioning and posing problems
- Applying past knowledge to new situations
- Creating, Imagining, Innovating
- Thinking Interdependently [collaborate with others]
- Remain open to continuous learning



Source:

Arthur L. Costa and Bena Kallick (eds) 2008



References



- * *edited by Arthur L. Costa and Bena Kallick. (2008). Learning and leading with habits of mind : 16 essential characteristics for success. Alexandria, VA :ASCD,*
 - * Iversen A-M, Pedersen AS, Krogh L, Jensen AA. *Learning, Leading, and Letting Go of Control: Learner-Led Approaches in Education.* SAGE Open. October 2015. doi:10.1177/2158244015608423
 - * Martin, K. (2018). *Learner centered innovation: Spark curiosity, ignite passion and unleash genius.*
 - * Wiggins, G. (1998). *Educative assessment: Designing assessments to inform and Improve student performance.* San Fransisco, CA: Jossey-Bass
- 
- 



Thanks!

Any questions?

You can find me at:

mfoster@newington.nsw.edu.au