



Podcasts for Multilevel ESL Instructors

Each podcast runs 10 minutes or less and is an mp3 file that listeners may download. Accompanying each podcast is a PDF file of the podcast script and supplemental pre- and post-listening application activities and related resources.

Podcast #1 – Ah, the Madness! Ah, the Magic! | Runtime 8:20

This initial podcast introduces five principal challenges in teaching multilevel adult ESL classes and the benefits of this instructional environment.

Pre- and post-listening activities include reflection questions and a self-survey to help identify the multilevel challenges that most need to be addressed.

In this first of the seven podcasts that make up the series "Making the Most of the Multilevel Class," adult education curriculum specialist Jayme Adelson-Goldstein discusses some key challenges and benefits of multilevel instruction.

After listening to this introductory podcast and doing the pre- and post-listening activities associated with it, you will have a better understanding of the factors that make a multilevel instructional setting both more challenging to manage as an instructor, and at the same time, a rewarding learning environment for your students.

As you listen to Podcast 1:

1. View the [Pre-Listening Activity](#).
2. Click here to continue to [Podcast 1: Ah the Madness! Ah the Magic!](#).
[Transcript of Podcast 1](#)
3. Complete the Post-Listening Application Activity below:

After you listen to Podcast 1: Review the 5 challenges identified in the podcast.

- Challenge 1- Lesson planning and preparation
- Challenge 2- Planning and managing group work
- Challenge 3- Creating effective mixed-ability groups
- Challenge 4- Locating materials that meet all learners' needs
- Challenge 5- Conducting assessment in the multilevel classroom

Reflect on how each of these challenges has affected your instruction. Write a response to one or both of the questions below.

- If you could eliminate only one challenge from multilevel instruction, which one would it be? Why?

- Imagine you are going to tell a new teacher about multilevel instruction. What would you say to make her/him enthusiastically sign up to teach a multilevel class?

Podcast #2 - Objectives and Levels and Content-Oh My! | Runtime 9:29

This podcast discusses four key elements of a multilevel lesson: thematic instruction, leveled groups, leveled objectives, and whole class presentations.

Pre- and post-listening activities include developing interest surveys for multilevel classrooms and creating linked objectives for thematic lessons.

As you listen to Podcast 2:

1. View the [Pre-Listening Activity](#).
2. Click here to continue to [Podcast 2: Objectives And Levels And Content – Oh, My!](#)
[Transcript of Podcast 2](#)
3. Complete the [Post-Listening Application Activity](#).

Supplemental Resources:

- [Team-Building Activities](#)
- [Picture-Story Sequence](#)

Podcast #3 - The Art of Orchestrating a Multilevel Lesson | Runtime 10:17

This podcast presents strategies for multilevel lesson planning that build class community while working with the spectrum of learners' needs.

Pre- and post-listening activities include identifying the stages of a lesson and working with lesson planning templates.

As you listen to Podcast 3:

1. View the [Pre-Listening Activity](#).
2. Click here to continue to [Podcast 3: The Art Of Orchestrating A Multilevel Lesson](#).
[Transcript of Podcast 3](#)
3. Complete the Post-Listening Application Activities below:
 - [Application Activity 1](#): Read through the Multilevel Lesson Plan on Time and lesson materials discussed in Podcasts 2 and 3:
 - Corners activity
 - Picture-story sequence and related script

- Reading about Time Management–Intermediate-High Learners
- Guided Practice Worksheets

Reflect on the following questions:

- What parts of this lesson would work for your classroom?
- How would you adapt this lesson to your classroom?
- What would you want to teach after you taught this lesson? Why?
- Application Activity 2: Review the Multilevel Health Care Lesson Plan and think of answers to the three questions highlighted in the lesson plan.

Podcast #4 - Group Work that Works! Part 1 | Runtime 9:58

Podcast four in this series outlines the skills learners need to work in same-level (like-ability) and mixed-level (cross-ability) groups. Instructional strategies teachers need to address issues that arise within groups are also covered.

Pre- and post-listening activities include Do/Say charts to introduce and reinforce group management skills and activity templates that help learners move between like-ability and cross-ability groups.

As you listen to Podcast 4:

1. View the [Pre-Listening Activity](#).
2. Click here to continue to [Podcast 4 - Group Work That Works! Part 1. Transcript of Podcast 4](#)
3. Complete the [Post-Listening Application Activities](#).

Podcast #5 - Group Work that Works! Part 2 | Runtime 10:09

This podcast focuses on how learners at different levels can work together in mixed-level (cross-ability) groups to achieve a common goal as well as their level-specific objectives.

Pre- and post-listening activities include identifying tasks that work well with cross-ability groups and developing a cross-ability practice activity from a textbook lesson.

As you listen to Podcast 5:

1. View the [Pre-Listening Activity](#).
2. Click here to continue to [Podcast #5 - Group Work that Works! Part 2. Transcript of Podcast 5](#)
3. Complete the [Post-Listening Application Activities](#).

Podcast #6 - The Multilevel Materials Challenge | Runtime 09:32

The sixth podcast of the series covers the issue of locating and/or creating materials appropriate to the multilevel class.

Pre- and post-listening activities include identifying activity resources and teaching tools for the multilevel class and repurposing single-level materials for the multilevel class.

As you listen to Podcast 6:

1. View the [Pre-Listening Activity](#).
2. Click here to continue to [Podcast 6: The Multilevel Materials Challenge](#).
[Transcript of Podcast 6](#)
3. Complete the [Post-Listening Application Activities](#).

Podcast #7 - Testing...123...Testing | Runtime 10:10

The seventh and final podcast of the series looks at ways to pre- and post-test successfully a group of learners with varying proficiency levels.

Pre- and post-listening activities include reflection questions and sample assessment templates.

As you listen to Podcast 7:

1. View the [Pre-Listening Activity](#).
2. Click here to continue to [Podcast 7: Testing...123...Testing](#).
[Transcript of Podcast 7](#)
3. Complete the [Post-Listening Application Activities](#).

The podcast series, copyright CALPRO 2009, was written by adult education curriculum specialist Jayme Adelson-Goldstein in association with CALPRO. The series was recorded and edited by Douglas Rennie of OTAN, the Outreach and Technical Assistance Network. The podcast theme music was written by Emily Goldstein and Mike Agentis and is used with permission.