

“Fill Out the Blanks”: Listening Exercise for Parsing Skills and Text Comprehension

- **The goal is to:**
 - 1) Be able to listen to recorded text in the target language and understand/discern necessary vocabulary**
 - 2) Be able to tell apart certain key grammatical elements: for example, to tell the difference between preposition and prefix, to tell which part is prefix and which part is the root etc.**
- * Blanks in texts should be created in such a way that students know only part of the word (only know prefix but not the root or vice versa)**
- 3) Be able to connect the grammatical elements and their functions with text comprehension.**

Activity:

- 1) Students are given the text with blanks.**
- 2) Play recording once at normal speed. The instructor reads the text if there are no previously provided recording.**
- 3) Play recording for the second time, this time stopping after each answer for the blank.**
- 4) Check with the students. Make sure that they hear the word. Collect student answers: both correct and incorrect ones. Ask them if each answer is one word or two words, and if two words, where to divide the word.**
- 5) Analyze the answers and show the students why the wrong answers are wrong and why correct answers are correct, depending on prefix, root and stress.**
- 6) Wrong answers can change the meaning of the sentence, which may add a comical effect to class.**

Sample sentence:

Мы наконец _____ комнату

1) несли́ ← “we carried the room” correct stress,
incorrect vocabulary

2) на шли́ ← “on went the room” correct stress,
incorrect parsing

3) на́ш ли ← “Is the room really ours?” incorrect
stress changing the meaning entirely

4) нашли́ ← “we found a room at last” correct
answer

Give the students the rest of the answer, making sure they understand each word. Then proceed to explaining conjugation of the room verb.

Нам о́чень по́нра́вилась

Нам по́везло́

Ему́ бы́л не ну́жен

Она́ го́вори́т , что

Я сказа́ла , что