

Translation: Reverse Translation

Level: Pre-intermediate and above

Preparation

Find two very short texts (50 words each): one in the students' mother tongue and one in English. Make one copy of each text for every two students in the class.

Procedure

- 1 Divide the class into two groups, A and B. Give the students in group A the text in the mother tongue and the students in group B the text in English.
- 2 Tell them they have to translate the texts into the other language (English or mother tongue). They can confer among themselves on how they would like to do this. They do not need to all have the same final translated text.
- 3 When groups have finished, ask them to pair up so that every student A is with a student B.
- 4 Tell them to swap their translated texts. They must now translate the text back into the original language.
- 5 At the end, tell them to compare with each other, and with the original.