

# STRUCTURED INPUT

## An Input Oriented Way To "Teach" Grammar

### What Is Structured Input?

Structured input is a method of grammar teaching developed by Bill VanPatten. The goal is to guide learners to process grammar as input to help them acquire the language. This is done by focusing on meaning instead of focusing on the form.

## What Do You Need To Keep In Mind With Structured Input?

### PRESENT ONE THING AT A TIME

Choose a single grammar point for learners to focus on. Don't overwhelm them with all the forms of a verb. Choose one specific pronoun or one specific rule that you want as the focus for your activity

### KEEP MEANING IN FOCUS

Write sentences so that students focus on the meaning of a sentence and almost don't notice the grammar. Meaning making is the main goal of these activities.

### MOVE FROM SENTENCES TO CONNECTED DISCOURSE

The first series of activities should be in sentence form. As the learners receive more input, begin adding complexities to your sentences (connected sentences, paragraphs). All of this will depend on the targeted proficiency level.

### USE BOTH ORAL AND WRITTEN INPUT

Create activities that require students to interpret input that they hear and that they read. Don't just rely on one type of input.

### HAVE LEARNERS DO SOMETHING WITH THE INPUT

Make sure students aren't just listening or reading. Give them interpretive tasks to complete while processing input. Then, give them a follow up task asking them to use the answers/language to complete a follow up task

### KEEP THE LEARNERS' PROCESSING STRATEGIES IN MIND

When writing the sentences beware of two key components. Don't include subjects in front of your verbs. Learners need to process verb forms based on the endings without the person. Don't include time markers. This doesn't help them process past/present/future by looking at verb endings

## MORE RESOURCES:

*Making Communicative Language Teaching Happen* by Lee and VanPatten

*Input Processing and Grammar Instruction* by VanPatten

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