

FORVO / YOUTUBE-BASED TASKS

Pronouncing a poem

TARGET GROUP

Age: high school or university level students
Level: B2 +

CONTEXT

(Ex: in class, online etc.)

Blended learning environment

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Memorizing a poem
- Perfecting pronunciation of some German words
- Learning how to use Forvo for self-directed learning

TOOLS AND RESOURCES

[Forvo](#), [Youtube](#)

CONTENT

STEPS:

1. Students are given the assignment to memorize a German poem. Every day at the beginning of class, the students will recite the poem together.

Der Panther (Im Jardin des Plantes, Paris)

Von Rainer Maria Rilke, 6.11.1902, Paris

Sein Blick ist vom Vorübergehn der Stäbe
so müd geworden, dass er nichts mehr hält.
Ihm ist, als ob es tausend Stäbe gäbe
und hinter tausend Stäben keine Welt.

Der weiche Gang geschmeidig starker Schritte,
der sich im allerkleinsten Kreise dreht,
ist wie ein Tanz von Kraft um eine Mitte,
in der betäubt ein großer Wille steht.

Nur manchmal schiebt der Vorhang der Pupille
sich lautlos auf -. Dann geht ein Bild hinein,
geht durch der Glieder angespannte Stille -
und hört im Herzen auf zu sein.

2. I will first [play a recording](#) that I found on Youtube of a native German reciting the poem. Students will read the lines of the poem while listening to the recitation. This will help the students to hear the flow and pronunciation of the poem. However, because it would be difficult to stop on each individual word, I will use Forvo to have the students listen to specific words from the poem.

3. I will ask the students which words they find particularly difficult to pronounce and we will [listen to the words on Forvo](#). I will also pick out words that I notice are particularly difficult. Students may struggle to know that the word "Panther" does not have the th sound like English but is simply pronounced with the t-sound. The German "r" is also difficult to pronounce and Forvo will also help students to improve pronunciation.

4. Students will also be able to access this website and practice pronouncing words at home. For homework, I will assign them specific words to listen to and practice speaking on Forvo.

ASSESSMENT

EVALUATION OF STUDENTS' WORK

TEACHER SELF-EVALUATION OF THE ACTIVITY

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ADDED VALUE

(Increase in value created by the use of the ICT tool)

- Students can assess improve their pronunciation listening to native speakers pronouncing target words
- Forvo allows users to ask for pronunciation of new words if these are not already available in the website inventory

POTENTIAL CHALLENGES

If students are practising pronunciation at home without the supervision of the teacher, they might not be able to be objective on how much they actually improved.

Example provided by Ashley Higham

Source: Gottalovegerman.blogspot.co.at