

SKYPE-BASED TASKS

Native speaker - lecture

TARGET GROUP	Secondary school students (Age: 15 +, Level: B1 +)
CONTEXT (Ex: in class, online etc.)	Virtual learning environment
LEARNING OUTCOMES	Presenting real people (professionals) to children and letting them engage in a conversation in their target language.
TOOLS AND RESOURCES	Skype , corresponding hardware, Google docs , PowerPoint
CONTENT	<p>TASK:</p> <p>A Skype conference with a citizen of a country/area of interest. Connect with a native speaker who will give an authentic long-distance lecture. The lecture can be related of any topic (biology, arts, history, human rights etc.). You can set up a PowerPoint presentation in GoogleDocs and have students follow the lecture.</p>

ASSESSMENT

EVALUATION OF STUDENTS' WORK

TEACHER SELF-EVALUATION OF THE ACTIVITY

	<p>It gave teachers and students the idea that distance is not a problem, and that problems with time zones can be solved, that Skype is a perfect media to use to introduce real people and their work into the students learning at an early stage. Interestingly, the teacher had impression that her students had worked harder than they would have normally worked precisely because of the physical distance and virtual learning environment.</p>
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ADDED VALUE

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

- Pupils can log in to Skype and follow lessons from everywhere (from home, from school, library etc.).
- Flexibility of the learning environment.
- Possibility to speak with native speakers, audio and video
- Possibility to give differentiated questions or listening frames – more information to support listening of weaker students
- Language in real situations, real time conversations
- Focus on communications not on language correction - more spontaneous and authentic language usage
- Possibility to record and reflect afterwards (with e.g. Call Burner)

POTENTIAL CHALLENGES

- Suspicion about teaching methods (using a virtual learning environment instead of face-to-face approach) by parents, pupils etc.
- Internet connection problems impeding everybody to be online at the same time or to lead a conversation 'fluently'.

Example provided by Ida Marguerite Semey

Source: [Moodle](#) (registration required)