



Faculty In-Service Day • May 17, 2024

PM Workshop Session (12:40P-2:10P) • B-21, Room 107

Title: Basic Conversational Chinese

Presenters: Snowy Zhang & Chris Mahoney

Description: This workshop is designed to introduce participants to fundamental Chinese phrases useful in everyday conversation. Whether you're a beginner looking to learn greetings or seeking to practice basic conversational skills, this session offers a supportive and engaging environment to start speaking Chinese.

Engagement Practice(s) Employed: Guided Skill Development

Guided Skill Development is ideal for language learning, as it combines direct instruction with hands-on practice. This method allows learners to observe correct pronunciation and usage, practice with guidance, and then apply what they've learned in real conversational contexts, ensuring a solid foundation in the basics of the language.

How the presenter used this practice:

- **Structured Demonstrations:** Snowy Zhang and Chris Mahoney will begin by demonstrating basic Chinese greetings and phrases, emphasizing proper pronunciation and context.
- **Interactive Practice:** Following each demonstration, participants will practice the phrases together with the presenters, allowing for immediate feedback and correction.
- **Independent Practice:** Participants will then practice the phrases in pairs or small groups, simulating real-life conversations to reinforce their learning.
- **Consolidation of Skills:** To conclude, participants will engage in structured conversational activities that require them to use all the phrases they've learned, enhancing fluency and confidence.

Adopting this practice in the classroom:

- **Active Engagement:** Encourage students to actively participate by repeating phrases and engaging in dialogues right from the start.
- **Progressive Difficulty:** Start with simple phrases and gradually introduce more complex sentences as students become more comfortable.
- **Supportive Feedback:** Provide constructive feedback in a supportive manner to help students improve without feeling discouraged.
- **Peer Interaction:** Foster an environment where students can practice with each other, enhancing their conversational skills through peer learning.

Assessment Strategies or Key Take-Aways:

- **Formative Feedback:** Continuously provide feedback during practice sessions, helping participants adjust their pronunciation and usage in real-time.
- **In-Class Quizzes:** Utilize mini quizzes to assess comprehension and retention of phrases and to reinforce learning through repetition.
- **Practical Application:** Assess students' ability to use the phrases in appropriate contexts, mimicking real-life interactions to gauge their practical language skills.