

Grammar Activity: or is it?

Thomas Checkley Issues in Pedagogy

Aim: To teach the use of a 'wenn-clause' to beginning German students as a lexical unit.

Level: First semester German students (GER506) towards the beginning of the semester.

Introduction: A 'wenn-clause' typically gives learners of German problems due to the movement of the verb from the second position to the final position. However, instead of teaching this as a rule in a grammar lesson, this leads the students through the use of a 'wenn-clause' by discussing clothing and the weather.

1. The students begin the day by reviewing clothing and then weather. This can be done in any number of fashions, here the weather precedes immediately this activity, and is reviewed by watching a Google video of the weather news in Germany from [Carola Jung](#). (1min)
2. After the video review with the students what they heard by asking them to give some details from the video that they picked up. Write these down on the blackboard/document camera. If students are doubtful about something write it on the board anyways with a question mark. (5-8mins)
3. Watch the video a second time, and afterwards go back and see if the students picked up on any words that they were unclear about from the first viewing. Ask the students what they would wear if the weather is cold, and then repeat something akin to 'Oh, you wear a jacket, if it is cold' (auf Deutsch in the actual activity). This leads into the next segment of group work where they will discuss what they wear when the weather is nice, rainy, cold, hot, etc. (10mins)
4. Organize the students into groups of no more than four and have them work on the handout provided for the activity. Have the students work in groups discussing and writing down what they would wear for a certain type of weather and why. (10mins)
5. After the group work is up, ask the students to volunteer when prompted for a certain weather type. Thus, when the instructor asks what would you wear when it is hot a volunteer(s) for various groups could respond with what their group came up with and why/when.

Grammar Handout

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Namen _____ Datum _____

Was trägst du, wenn das Wetter _____ ist?

Bspw: Ich trage eine Jacke, wenn das Wetter kalt ist.

Kalt

Regnerisch

Sonnig

Heiß

Feucht

Schneeig
