Blending listening with extensive reading

Recipe for a successful program

Jose Lara – Lesley Speer
UECA PD Fest 2016 - Sydney

Blending listening with extensive reading

Phase 1	Phase 2	
Extensive Reading	**Extensive Listening**	**Three-part model**
Book Club Café	**Book Club Café**	• **Sustainability** • **Transferability** • **Motivation**

Book Club Café

Overview

What is it?

- Extensive reading/listening project
- In-class session / relaxed café-like atmosphere
- Students share information
- Complete package
- >2 years at Macquarie University English Language Centre, Sydney, AUS
- 2 awards from English Australia
- Data shows that it works
- Easily transferred

Book Club Café

Phase 1: Extensive Reading

Ingredients for Reading

Voluntary Reading (outside class)	Learner autonomy	Follow-up activities (in class)	Online reading resources	Relaxed/fun atmosphere (biscuits, music)

Book Club Café

Phase 1: Extensive Reading

Week 1	Week 1-5	Week 2-5
Set-up	**Reading**	**Book Club Café** (1hr/wk class time)

Week 1 — Set-up

Introduce:
- Book Club Café
- Websites for reading
- Reading logs
- Importance of reading

Week 1-5 — Reading

Students
- Read outside class time
- Choose their own texts
- Record information to share

Week 2-5 — Book Club Café (1hr/wk class time)

Students
- Share information (groups of 3-4)
- Enjoy a relaxed and fun atmosphere
- See immediate benefits of reading

Book Club Café

Phase 2: Introducing Listening

What are the challenges our students face when listening in English?

- Speed (too fast)

- Processing in real time

- Connected speech

- Accents

- Lack of specific vocabulary

- No visual clues

Book Club Café

Phase 2: Why blend listening with reading?

	Intensive Listening (IL)	**Extensive Listening (EL)**
Overall aim	Accuracy	Fluency
Specific purpose	Answer question	Information/Enjoyment
Focus	Words/Pronunciation	Meaning
Materials	Teacher chooses	Student chooses
Amount	Not much	A lot
Speed	May be uncomfortable	Should be comfortable

(Frost, 2015)

Book Club Café

Phase 2: Extensive Listening

Activity 1:

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Only Listening	Listening + Reading	Listening only again

51.2%	92.6%	78.5%
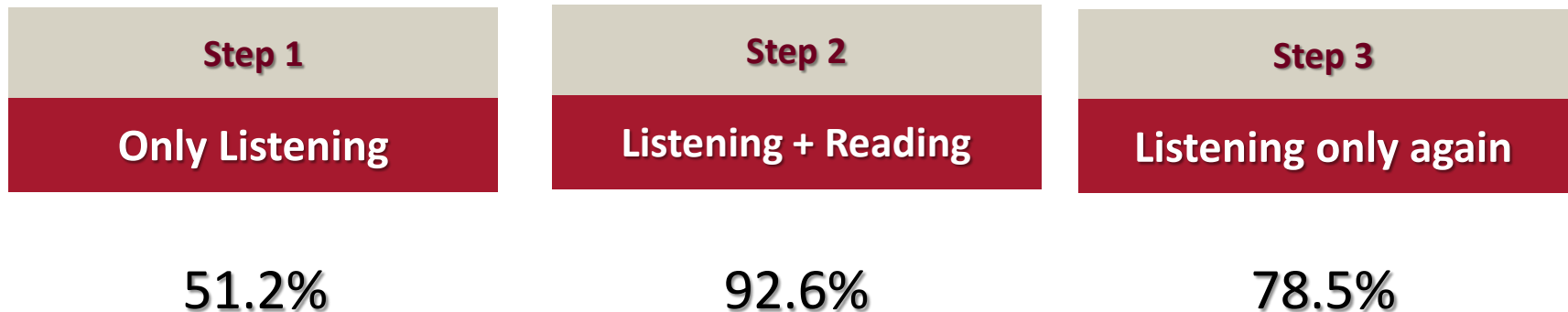
- Level of improvement (self-perceived): **27.3%**

Book Club Café

Phase 2: Extensive Listening

MACQUARIE University

Activity 2:

Sugar in hot drinks - level 2

23-02-2016 15:00   Level 1   Level 2   Level 3

Analysis showed how much sugar is in hot drinks. An example is that a can of coke has an average of 9 teaspoons of sugar, but that's nothing compared to Caffe Nero's Latte with 13 teaspoons of sugar. A Costa Chai Latte has 20 teaspoons of sugar, and the worst **offender** is a Starbucks's hot **mulled** fruit drink with 25 teaspoons of sugar. That is three times more sugar than you should have in one day!

Most sugar is in mochas and lattes. Costa and Starbucks say that they want to reduce the sugar in these drinks, but for now, it may be better for you to choose drinks with less sugar.

Source: www.newsinlevels.com

Book Club Café

Outcomes

Comments from students

Allows us to reading regularly

I can choose the texts myself

Listening is very difficult for me. With these activities I can practice my listening alone more.

It helped me develop my vocabulary and grammar.

I love sharing what I listened with my classmates in a relaxing atmosphere with music and food and coffee.

I liked the chatting we have on Friday afternoons because it's very relaxing and it's genuine conversation.

I really enjoy sharing what books I read, especially when the books are something that I really love or have passion for.

It can help me find the habit of reading.

Book Club Café
Three-part model

Sustainability

- Non-assessed

- Flexible to use with different teachers over time (i.e. casuals, relief, practicum)

- Variety of follow-up 'student-centred' activities

Spelling competitions	**Class glossary**	**Role play**
Summarising	**Guessing from the Title**	**Critical thinking**

Book Club Café

Three-part model

Sustainability

- Wide range of online resources:

    - ER Central
    - ESL Fast
    - News in Levels
    - ESL Bits
    - The Conversation
    - Project Gutenberg
    - British Council Learn English Magazine
    - BBC Learning English (6-minute English)
    - CNN Student News
    - ELLLO (English Listening Lesson Library Online)
    - Behind the News (ABC)
    - Listen a minute

Book Club Café
Three-part model

Transferability

Simple to implement	Easy to explain

Low cost	Adaptable

Motivation

Learner autonomy	Learning as a social experience

Genuine interaction	Peer pressure

"ESL Book Club Café"

jose.lara@mq.edu.au
lesley.speer@mq.edu.au

Thank you