What Is Onomatopoeia? Sound Words for English Learners

S06E15 | For teachers to adapt to their learners

Purpose

Onomatopoeia is language that imitates or suggests a sound. Words such as buzz , bang , slurp , groan and giggle help learners connect sound, action and meaning in a memorable way.

Try this in your next lesson

Make or describe one sound.

Our suggested routine

Put these words on the board: slurp, sigh, groan, giggle, bang, buzz .

Finish by letting pairs invent a tiny story containing three of the sound words.

☐ Make or describe one sound.

☐ Learners choose the matching word.

☐ Ask where they might hear it.

☐ Build one sentence together.

☐ Learners add one sound word from their own language.

After the attempt

What worked? What needs another model or a smaller step? Note one change for next time.

Read the full explanation and examples:
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