

# STRATEGY: CLOZE Procedure

## SKILLS ADDRESSED

- Using context clues to identify words
- Experiencing reading as a process of constructing meaning

## PREREQUISITES

- When listening, the ability to fill in the next words when the reader pauses
- Experience with thinking about the meaning while reading
- Understanding that reading involves forming and testing hypotheses

## STEPS INVOLVED

1. Teacher constructs passage, leaving first and last sentences intact and deleting every nth word, starting with the second sentence.
2. Students read text individually and fill in the blanks.
3. If used as test: teacher collects and score papers (60% correct=independent level; 41-59% correct=instructional level; 40% or less correct=frustration level)
4. If used for instruction: Students discuss their choices, share their reasoning

## RELATED LEARNING PRINCIPLES

- Comprehension is developed and reinforced by close reading and rereading.
- Using context clues encourages careful attention to meanings.
- Practice with a skill, i.e., using context clues, leads to effective use of skill.
- Patterns (in this case, syntactical) help the brain construct meaning.

## APPLICATION

In K-1, to acclimate students to the process of using context, the teacher can read stories aloud, pausing mid-sentence to have students supply the next word(s). When students are reading well on their own, cloze passages can be introduced to develop and refine their abilities to use context clues and to read with the intention of constructing meaning. Cloze passages can be used for teaching or testing. If used for teaching, specific kinds of words, e.g., adjectives, may be deleted rather than every nth word. If used for testing, scoring protocols may vary, depending on purpose. Cloze passages are favored in ESL classrooms because they give students effective practice with the syntax and vocabulary of English.

Source: W. Taylor, "Cloze Procedure: A New Tool for Measuring Readability." *Journalism Quarterly* Vol. 30, No. 4, 1953, pp. 415-33.

