Title: Running Dictation

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Proficiency level

__X__ Beginning __X__ Intermediate ___ Advanced

Grade level
Upper primary, secondary & high school students

Purpose of the activity
Practise writing skills in a fun manner

Type of activity
o Group activity carried out as a language game
o Classroom/seating arrangement: in groups of 4

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Chairs with dictation text

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Students seated in groups. Runner runs to the chairs.

Objective
o Practise writing with correct spelling and punctuation.
o Practise reading phrases with correct pronunciation

Duration
15-20mins.

Materials and technology
A dictation text suited to the learners’ level of proficiency. Not too long, preferably one which can be dictated in 5 minutes e.g. a 10-line poem, a song, a short story or a joke. It shouldn’t be a text that the students are familiar with e.g. a pop song which they know.

Activity
i. Every group assigns 2 runners and 2 scribes. The runners’ duty is to run to the dictation text, read it, run back and dictate it phrase by phrase to the scribes who will write it down.

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A time limit is set e.g. 5 mins or a series of songs can be played and when it ends, the activity ends.

ii. A time limit is set e.g. 5 mins or a series of songs can be played and when it ends, the activity ends.
iii. After a short while, the teacher shouts 'change!' and the groups will change runner. This procedure is repeated until the whole text is dictated or until time limit is up.

iv. The groups are given 1 min. to edit what they have written.

v. The groups exchange their writing and check each other’s work based on the dictation text. The group with the least errors wins the game.

Rules

- Only one runner can run to the texts at any one time. For example, Runner 1 will do the running until the teacher shouts ‘change!’ Then Runner 2 takes over until the next ‘change!’ After that it is Runner 1’s turn again.
- The runners cannot write for the scribes and the scribes cannot run to the texts.
- The dictation text must remain on the chair at all times, it cannot be brought back to the scribes.

*Note*: The teacher must decide prior to the activity how the written product is going to be assessed or how marks are to be awarded. One way is to start with a certain mark/score e.g. 20 and for each error 1 mark is deducted.