



TOTAL PHYSICAL RESPONSE (TPR)

This technique is used to practice listening comprehension. It is based on how first languages are learned, focusing on the pre-speaking stage. Command forms are used with real objects and actions. Students respond physically—only adding speech when they are ready.

OBJECTIVE: To build students' confidence in listening and understanding before requiring speech

MATERIALS: Real objects

DESCRIPTION:

1. Tutor gives a command and models the response. For example, "Pick up your pencil."
2. Repeat the command several times, while modeling. Students copy the model.
3. Repeat the command for students to follow several times, without modeling it.
4. Repeat steps one to three with a new command until student can follow four or five commands.
5. When students are following the commands with ease, mix up the order of the commands.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Use commands such as, "Stand up," "Sit down," "Get out your paper" for beginners.
- Make use of demonstrations of a process (prepare a bowl of cereal—"Open the box. Pour the cereal into the bowl." etc.).
- Have students prepare a demonstration that they will then model for the class and have everyone follow their actions and commands.