

Reading Review Activity

Ping Pong Reading

(AKA Volleyball Reading)

This is a reading and oral interpreting exercise that you can do every so often as a review.

I would not do it every day, or even every week, because so much L1 is used (50%). It is a fun activity and students enjoy it, partially as a review, and partially as a brain break.

Ping Pong Reading is a paired exercise, best done **with students standing** and facing one another—students need several breaks from sitting each class period, so use this activity as an excuse get them up and interacting face-to-face. Each student has a partner.



All students have a copy of the text in L2 in their hands, usually a recent story, part of a chapter, an article, or other reading—one where most students know almost every word.

- Student A reads sentence #1 aloud in L2 as it is written in the text.
- Student B says sentence #1 aloud in L1.
- Student B reads sentence #2 aloud in L2.
- Student A then says sentence #2 aloud in L1, and then reads sentence #3 aloud in L2

It is like ping pong because after the “serve” (the first sentence read aloud in L2 by student A, the “ball” (the speaking aloud) hits the other side two times: once when it bounces (interpreting to L1), and once when it is hit back (reading the next sentence aloud in L2).

Ping Pong reading can also be made more social by rotating around a circle at timed intervals. Have students form two circles of 8 to 10: an **inner circle**, facing out, and an **outer circle**, facing in. Each student is across from another. Each student has a copy of the reading in L2, and they begin Ping Pong Reading. At the signal, the students in the outer circle take one step to the right. The new pairing in the rotation takes up where the slowest member of the pair left off. In larger classes, you will need two or even three such groupings.

Do this activity every other week or whenever you want to give students a movement break that is still on task and content-related.