



Bryce Hedstrom

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. Each student has a partner. All students have a copy of the text in their hands, usually a recent story, article or other reading, one where most students know almost every word.

- Student A reads sentence #1 aloud in L2.
- Student B says sentence #1 aloud in L1.
- Student B immediately reads sentence #2 aloud in L2.
- Student A then says sentence #2 aloud in L1, and then immediately 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 of the table two times: once when it bounces (translating to L1) and once when it is shot back (reading the next sentence aloud in L2).

Ping Pong reading can also be done 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 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 group left off.

In larger classes, you will need two or even three such groupings.