



What do learners need teachers for anyway?

Authentic Materials and Colloquial Language in the
Internet Age

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Key questions

- o Who are your learners?
- o What are their goals? (Outcomes)
 - o Interpersonal Speaking and Listening
 - o Interpretive Listening
 - o Interpretive Reading
 - o Presentational Speaking
 - o Presentational Writing

Why should we teach/learn colloquial language?

- o Because it is *authentic* language!= by native speakers, for native speakers
- o It is culture-rich

Authentic Sources on the Internet

- o Virtually infinite, since they are constantly being produced
- o Up-to-date
- o Accessible 24/7 for most learners
- o Many rich with colloquial language across topic domains, for example
 - o TV programs (both informational and entertaining)
 - o Movies
 - o Radio broadcasts
 - o News
 - o . . .



No lack of access...

but increased access doesn't
automatically translate to
increased language acquisition

So why do learners need *us*?

- o What do they need us to do that they cannot do for themselves?
- o Consider how different our answer to this question would have been in the pre-Internet age.

They need us to...

- o Diagnose current strengths and weaknesses (they don't always know what they know and don't know what they don't know 😊)
- o Help them to define goals and set realistic expectations
- o Be a guide in the selection of materials based on goals and interests
- o Explain the linguistically inexplicable (including grammar)!
- o Provide opportunities for application and practice
- o

Challenges for us - we need to...

- o Stay current (easier said than done)
- o Individualize materials for individual learners
(teaching to the whole class)
- o Constantly create and/or update instructional materials based on constantly changing input
- o Help learners develop strategies to be effective/efficient language learners so they need us less and less, especially as their proficiency levels increase

