

Arabic-3600 -- a Foray into Open Architecture 25 July 2017

*Esho Joseph and Paul Roochnik
DLIFLC/CE/EP/LTD-Fort Meade, MD*



DLIFLC
DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE
FOREIGN LANGUAGE CENTER



Arabic at Fort Meade

Table of Contents

1. Thanks! ألف شكر!
2. Fort Meade Faculty: mini-Arab League
3. Scenario: Crunch → Counter-Crunch!
4. To the rescue:
 1. Open Architecture
 2. Learner Autonomy
5. What will we change next time?



Arabic at Fort Meade

Crunch!

- **September 2016: schedule issued, few gaps**
- **October '16 – February '17: collect materials randomly**
- **March '17: start to design and develop**
- **03 April 2017: course begins**
- **30 May: course ends**
- **Write 8-week curriculum in 3-4 weeks? No way!**



Arabic at Fort Meade

Counter-Crunch!

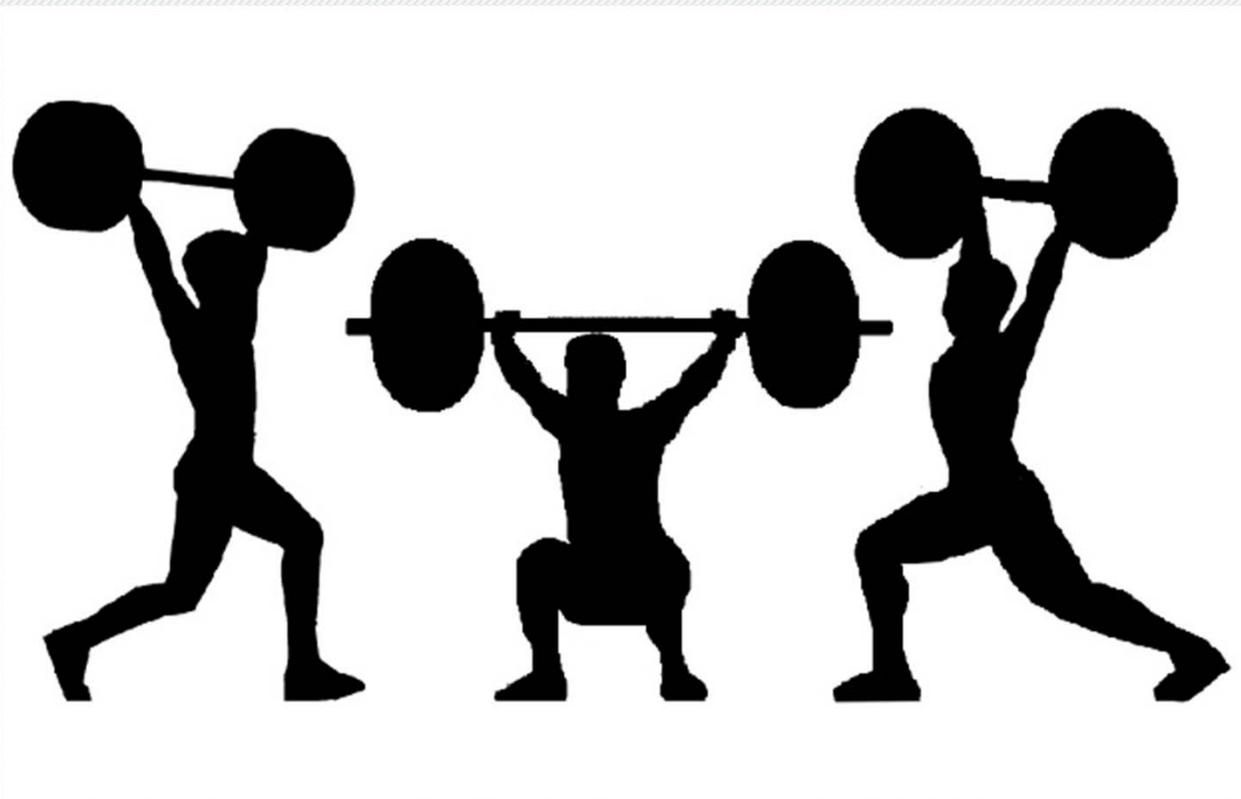
- **How to do less & accomplish more?**
 - **Let the students do the heavy lifting.**
 - **Let a TV soap-opera supply the homework.**
 - **Assessment: Simple \neq Easy.**
 - **Rigidity out, Flexibility in.**
 - **Open Architecture.**



DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE FOREIGN LANGUAGE CENTER

Arabic at Fort Meade

Let Students do the heavy lifting



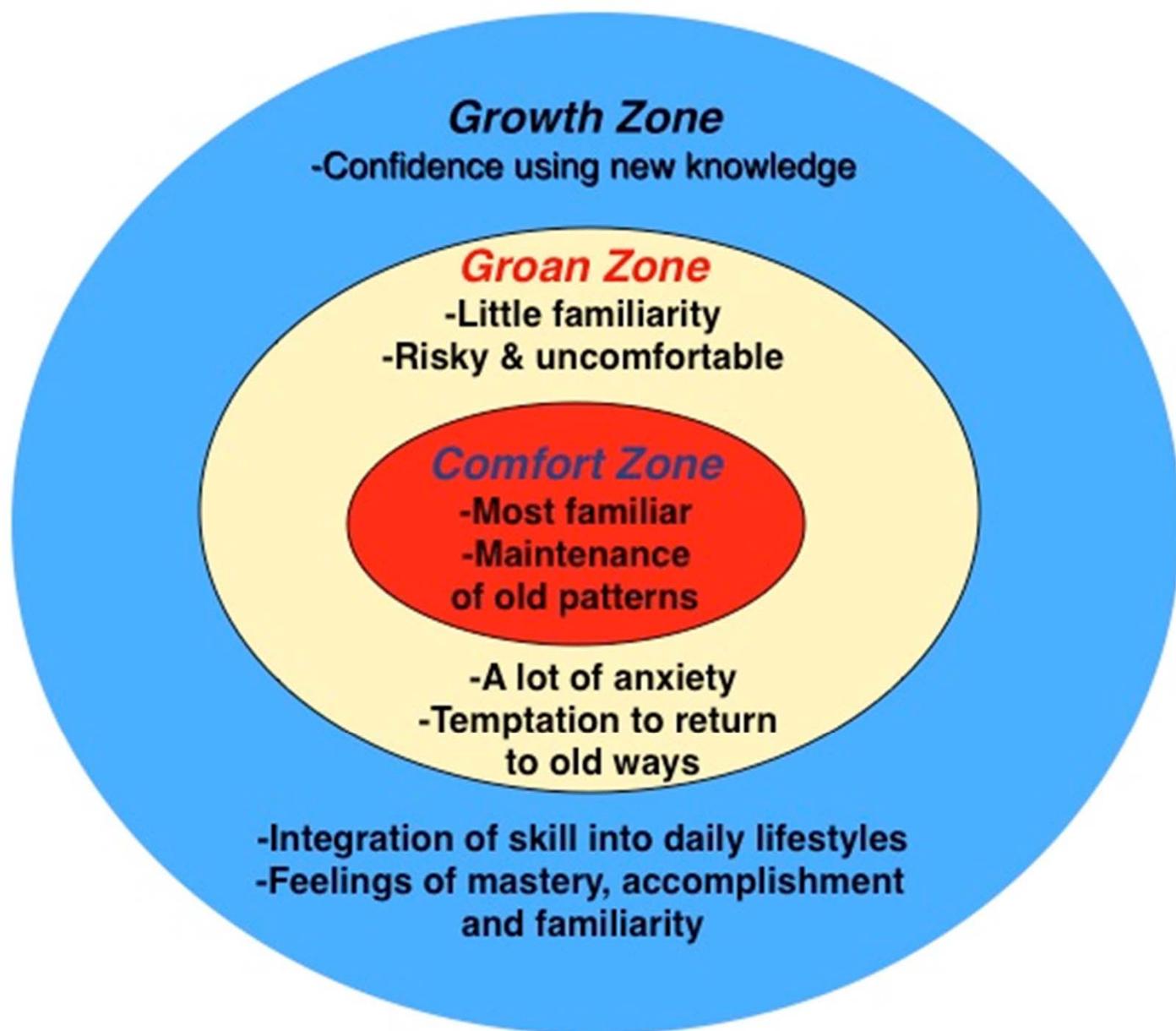


Arabic at Fort Meade

HOTS vs LOTS

1. **LOTS: ignore at your peril**
2. **HOTS: handle with care**
3. **Time Flex: conquer LOTS, then on to HOTS**

Fields of Experience





DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE FOREIGN LANGUAGE CENTER

Arabic at Fort Meade

Let a TV soap-opera supply the homework!





Arabic at Fort Meade

Soap-Opera for homework? What?!

Advantages:

- **Sustained listening – 40 minutes +/- nightly**
- **Cultural content**
- **Learner Autonomy**
- **Fun and compelling: Cliff-hangers!**



DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE FOREIGN LANGUAGE CENTER

- Sample Homework Assignment:



Microsoft Word
7 - 2003 Documer

Guidelines for Conferences, a presentation
by Zalmi Roashan



Arabic at Fort Meade

Open Architecture, I:





Arabic at Fort Meade

Open Architecture, II:

BlackBoard knocks down walls

- Big Picture
- Students access materials 24/7 at school, home, library, Starbucks
- 2-way data flow
- No excuses
- Save a tree, save time



Arabic at Fort Meade

Open Architecture, III: How Implemented? STUDENTS:

1. choose *some* materials
2. *impact* pace and focus
3. take charge... *sort of*
4. recommend new activities... إن شاء الله



Arabic at Fort Meade

What will we do differently next time?

- 1. Space-out the HW episodes**
- 2. Tighten-up: 1 week per region**
- 3. Remove *Ramp-Up***
- 4. Students design more lessons**
- 5. Guest lectures for each M.E. region**
- 6. Plan weekly 1-on-1 student-teacher conferences**
- 7. Include more FLO topics**
- 8. More real-life tasks**



DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE FOREIGN LANGUAGE CENTER

- Sample Lesson Plan:



Microsoft Word
7 - 2003 Documer

Guidelines for Conferences, a presentation
by Zalmi Roashan