INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES



Sounds Right? Sounds Off?

"Sounds Right or Sounds Off?" is an engaging listening-based grammar strategy designed to help students develop a stronger intuitive sense of correct grammar.

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SOUNDS RIGHT? SOUNDS OFF?

Summary

Students listen to spoken sentences—some that are grammatically correct and others that contain deliberate errors—and decide whether each sentence "sounds right" or "sounds off." This strategy encourages students to use their ear for language to identify common grammar mistakes and to deepen their understanding of standard English conventions.

Procedure

1. The teacher reads (or plays a recording of) a series of sentences aloud, or students get into pairs and take turns reading sentences.
2. Students respond to each sentence with one of the following options: by holding up a “Sounds Right” or “Sounds Off” card (see attachment), signaling thumbs up/down, or completing a quick response form.
3. After each sentence, students discuss in pairs or as a class *why* the sentence is right or wrong.

Hunter, J. (2022). Can language learners hear their own errors? the identification of grammaticality in one's own production. System, 111, 102933. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.system.2022.102933