

# Colour Dictation

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Junior Cycle Modern Foreign Language

Target Language - German

Strand 1 - Communicative Competence

Elements - Spoken interaction & listening

Learning Outcomes - 1.2, 1.11 & 1.15



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# Colour Dictation

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This is an exercise emphasising the high skill element in learning German - a dictation exercise using colours

## How it maps to the curriculum

### ▼ German

STRAND: 1. Communicative Competence

STRAND UNIT: Listening/ Hören



SUGGESTIONS FOR USE: 1.2 recognise frequently-used words and phrases related to areas of immediate relevance and experience.

STRAND: 1. Communicative Competence

STRAND UNIT: Spoken Interaction/ Sprechen



SUGGESTIONS FOR USE: 1.11 interact in routine exchanges with pronunciation and intonation which is clear enough to be understood and with appropriate non-verbal language. 1.15 take part in routine classroom interactions such as pair or group work, language games and activities.

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This exercise emphasises the high skill element in learning languages.

Although the vocabulary is very easy and accessible, the high skill element ensures that pupils have to concentrate on the task in hand.

Even though only one pupil is doing the exercise at a time, the rest of the class are totally involved.



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Instructions:

- Invite one pupil to come to the front where there are four colours laid out in piles of twenty cards



- Tell the pupil that you are going to read out some colours and after you have finished reading they are to place the coloured cards in the correct sequence.

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Instructions:

- Start off slowly with just three colours:

**blau**

**rot**

**gelb**

- The pupil places the cards in a row as in a dictation.



- The pupil then puts the cards back.

**rot**

**gelb**

**grün**

Ditto

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Instructions:

- Then move on to four colours and increase the tempo slightly:

**blau**  
**grün**

**rot**  
**blau**

**gelb**  
**rot**

**blau**  
**gelb**

- Then increase the tempo again – watch the other pupils as they will be watching the invited one. They are all repeating the colours in their heads.

**blau**  
**blau**

**rot**  
**gelb**

**gelb**  
**rot**

**grün**  
**grün**

**blau**  
**rot**

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Instructions:

- This time say that you will press a pause button with your hand – and the pupil must wait until you release it before setting out the cards in sequence.

rot  
blau

blau  
gelb

grün  
grün

grün  
rot

gelb  
rot

blau  
gelb

- Check out what the invited pupil – and the rest of the class did whilst on pause – they repeated all the colours in their head.

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Instructions:

- Now see if the invited pupil can manage seven colours at speed without the pause button.
- This is usually the limit for most people when trying to remember random pieces of information (cf a mobile phone number)

rot

blau

gelb

grün

rot

gelb

blau

- This exercise can now be used for various items of vocabulary (eg numbers / pets / clothing) – it tests the ability to recall at speed and manipulate familiar vocabulary in a challenging way.



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[Access the activity sheets here.](#)



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