

MODULE 1

1.3 - WHAT IS TASK-BASED LANGUAGE TEACHING

In this video we study the method of this MOOC, namely TBLT, in more detail.

TBLT is a **communicative methodology** (= a *method*). It means that it places great emphasis on **written or oral** (= *spoken*) **communication**. The scholar Prabhu invented TBLT in the 1980s in the city of Bangalore, India.

In TBLT, when we study a foreign language, we have to **use the language with real-life simulations** and **authentic materials**. These are materials that are not made for the classroom, but come from real life: e.g. films, newspapers or books.

In this way it is a bit like when you move to a new country and you are completely immersed in the language of the country, because you hear and speak it everywhere.

TBLT stands for *Task-Based Language Teaching*, i.e. a **teaching methodology** which **uses tasks**. But what is a task?

A **task** is a '**communicative task**', and is the **core element** of the TBLT method.

A communicative task is a **problem to be solved by communication**. To solve the problem and thus perform the task, the learner must **produce, convey and understand** the message. In the beginning, therefore, the important thing is to **communicate**, and **NOT to use the correct rules**.

In this way, the student can use all his knowledge and thus learn the language more easily. For the teacher, the task is done well if the students communicate, and **NOT** if they use all the rules of the foreign language.

It is like in real life: an example of a task is talking to the doctor about a health problem.

- One student can be the doctor and another the patient.
- As in real life, the important thing is that the doctor understands the patient's problem, and **NOT** to use the language perfectly.
- If the doctor understands the patient's problem, then the task is done well.

All **real life situations** can be tasks: writing a CV, going to the supermarket, having a job interview, calling customer service, calling an ambulance, ordering at a restaurant,

telling a story, writing a motivational letter, reading an e-mail, giving directions to a tourist, and so on.

In this MOOC you will study TBLT, how exactly it works and how you can use it in your language lessons.

