



## English Language Learners: Understanding Sheltered Instruction

Est. Time: 30 Minutes

### Objective

1) To understand how sheltered instruction can be used to support English language learners (ELLs), and 2) to understand that the ability of ELL students to comprehend new information may be significantly reduced when teachers fail to provide the necessary supports they may need in and out of the classroom.

### Overview

Through sheltered content instruction, teachers utilize instructional techniques to help ELLs understand demanding lesson content. Instructors teach content objectives that correspond to grade-level standards, while also planning and teaching language objectives that enrich ELLs' receptive and expressive skills. When teachers use additional supports, such as hands-on demonstrations, graphics, and real objects (known as *realia*), they make the instruction less abstract and easier for students to comprehend. Such supports can also help ELL students make connections with their prior knowledge, something that may help them understand new information that they are required to learn.

### Activity, Part 1

Follow the link to view Video #1. Write down five things the teacher talked about during the lesson. <http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/mcontent/sheltered-video-1/>

### Activity, Part 1: Questions/Discussion Topics

1. Were you able to identify five things the teacher talked about during the lesson? If so, what were they? If not, why not?
2. How did you feel as you were trying to understand the teacher during the lesson? Explain.
3. For how long was the teacher able to hold your full attention?
4. What could the teacher have done to help you to better understand the lesson?



The contents of this case study were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, #H325F060003. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. Project Officer, Shedeh Hajghasemali.



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### Activity, Part 2

Follow the link below to view Video #2. Write down five things the teacher talked about during the lesson. <http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/mcontent/sheltered-video-2/>

### Activity, Part 2: Questions/Discussion Topics

1. This lesson presented the same content as in Video #1. What were you able to write down this time? Were you able to identify more information from Video #2 than from Video #1? Why or why not?
2. List or discuss things the teacher did differently in this lesson that made it easier for you to understand. Explain why they made a difference.
3. Was the teacher able to hold your attention for a longer period than in Video #1? Explain.

### Activity, Part 3

Again, follow the link below to view Video #3. Write down five things the teacher talked about during the lesson. <http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/mcontent/sheltered-video-3/>

### Activity, Part 3: Questions/Discussion Topics

1. Compare the number of things you were able to write down from Video #3 to your answers from Videos #1 and #2. From which lesson were you able to glean the most information? Why do you think this was the case?
2. Did you have any prior knowledge of this lesson's content? If so, did it help you to understand the lesson? Why or why not?
3. Could the teacher have done anything else during the lesson to help you understand the information? Explain.
4. Discuss how you will improve your teaching (current or future) with ELL students as a result of completing this activity.