

A Guide to Creating Mimetic Lessons

The Mimetic lesson flows through five distinct stages to introduce the student to a new idea or skill. The lesson will progress through each of the five stages in sequence and are as follows:

1. **Preparation Stage** - The teacher assesses the existing knowledge the student possesses that is relevant to the lesson, creates a dissonance (a “need to know”), and corrects any misapprehensions.
2. **Presentation of Types** - Give the student several particular examples or samples that embody the idea or skill being taught. Analogies and demonstrations may also be used.
3. **Comparison of Types**- The student sets the types, analogies, or demonstrations side-by-side and studies the similarities between them. The student abstracts the idea or skill and the teacher coaches.
4. **Expression of the idea/skill** - The student expresses the idea in their own words. The teacher assesses. If need be, give more times/examples.
5. **Application of the idea/skill** - The student is must embody the new idea or skill they have discovered. The teacher assesses.

The teacher may combine or nest more than one mimetic sequence together. For example, when teaching a new verb tense, the teacher may create a mimetic lesson to introduce the idea of that new tense, then go through another sequence teaching the students the process of putting a verb into the new tense.

Creating a Mimetic Sequence:

A mimetic sequence is not created in the same order as the lesson is progressed through. The creation of the stages progresses as follows:

- A. **Identify the idea or skill** the students will express. This is the thesis of your lesson, so clearly define the one thing you want the mimetic sequence to teach them.
- B. **Create the types.** Choose particular examples, analogies, or demonstrations of the idea you seek to teach.
- C. **Create Comparison questions.** What can you ask that will help coach stuck students to see the similarities between the types?
- D. **Identify application** of the idea/skill. How will the students apply the new lesson so that you can assess their understanding and execution of it?
- E. **Identify background/foundation knowledge.** What do they already know that will help them understand the idea? What do they not yet know that is essential to learning the lesson? Prepare them for the lesson by filling in the holes in their understanding or knowledge.

Order this information according to the steps of the mimetic lesson. Stage 1 corresponds to step E, Stage 2 to B, Stage 3 to C, Stage 4 to A, Stage 5 to D.