A Step-by-step Guide to the IM

For those readers who aren't familiar with the Immediate Method, we thought we'd introduce its basic features again in this issue, in a concise and easy-to-read way. You can find more detailed information at www.almalang.com.

Step 1 | Teach conversation content



- Topics based on everyday life and personal opinions
- Content that can be immediately used in a conversation

Secret weapon:

IM-compatible textbooks and teaching material published by ALMA save teachers the effort of extracting material from traditional textbooks.

Step 2 | Have students practice in pairs



Students practice until they can easily use the material in real time exchanges. They can be required to practice with several partners or to complete certain tasks.

Secret weapon: the conversation test itself

- Students understand that they need to practice in order to succeed in the conversation test they will be having later that class or the following week.
- Specific test instructions give direction to their practice. (see Bruno Vannieu's article in this issue).

Step 3 | Give students conversation tests during classtime







- The teacher conducts a series of conversations with one, two or three students at a time. These exchanges last between 1 and 5 min.
- Students receive a mark on their Progress Sheet.
- The conversation test is done away from the class-group, for example in a corner of the classroom.
- During the conversation tests, other students continue oral practice in pairs and do written exercises.

Secret weapon 1:

Frequently practiced **meta-communication tools** help students not to get stuck in silence.

Secret weapon 2:

The **Progress Sheet** allows the teacher to easily keep track of marks and confers to students the responsibility of their learning. (see *CiC* Newsletter No. 1)