



Teaching Unplugged is a process of exploration. Since our first experiences as trainee teachers, we build up a stock of teaching strategies and task types, ranging from things we may take for granted, such as being friendly or writing information on the board during a lesson, to new ideas. Exploring a new teaching approach like Dogme involves reassessing our stock of strategies and task types, *adapting* some whilst *adopting* others.

The teaching strategies in the following pages are particularly well suited to the unplugged classroom. Many are tried and tested favourites, used by the authors over the years; others have been written specially. All are presented as activities that you can try out in class with a minimum of preparation.

Unplugged activities

We have used a consistent structure for the activities which will quickly start to feel familiar: there are suggestions for things to consider and to do *before*, *during* and *after* the lesson.

Other elements which may be familiar to teachers are absent. There are no language exponents (the language will emerge from the activity), no timings (this will depend on where your class take the activity), and no levels (these activities are designed to adapt to and reflect the abilities of the learners). There are no worksheets to photocopy: each activity is ready – with perhaps a little homework from yourself and your learners – to use. They are designed to come to life in class.

The activities do not need to be tried in order – the five chapters here are interrelated. As you experiment, you will find that some suit your teaching context perfectly, and that others work much better with a tweak here and there. Make the changes yourself – highlight or delete on the printed page; note down your own ideas in the margins. The activities are yours to unplug.

Unplugged teaching

Learning a language is also a process of exploration. There are false starts and wrong turns along the way and, in fact, progress as a learner is impossible without them. Teaching, although we may feel exposed at times, is the same. Enjoy yourselves – both you and your learners!

