

## 21 LESSON CHALLENGES

**THERE ARE ONLY TWO WAYS TO HELP SOMEONE DEVELOP A SKILL – YOU EITHER PROVIDE A CHALLENGE, OR YOU PROVIDE A SUPPORT.**

To help you develop your creativity, planning, and facilitation skills, you must confront 21 Lesson Challenges. Lesson Challenges are not the same as Coached Experiences. To get credit for a Lesson Challenge, you'll need to inform the Coordinator of Apprentices and follow the instructions. Each Challenge may only be achieved once unless otherwise noted, although you are encouraged to use all of these as springboards for your creativity as frequently as you like.

We will be flexible when we can, but you may not receive credit if you don't follow the instructions.

We set the bar high and require you to ask for flexibility if you need it. Only the Coordinator of Apprentices can grant exceptions. You need to make sure that exceptions are documented.



### CHALLENGE LIST

**12 Lesson Challenges are Required:**

**How's My Pie? (x1) Instructor**  
**I Need to Work On That (x1) Instructor**  
**Deck of Professions (x1) Practitioner**  
**Props (x5) Practitioner**  
**New Shoes (x1) Practitioner**  
**Silent Class (x2) Facilitator**  
**Sharpen Your Pencil (x1) Facilitator**

**The other 9 Lesson Challenges are Elective. Descriptions below.**

**How's My Pie? (x1)** – One of your lessons will be critiqued by a Guild Member or Facilitator (your WING can do this). Must be emailed at least 48 hours before your

class, and the Coordinator of Apprentices must receive it as well. May be repeated once during each stage. (**Required:** Instructor; Elective: Practitioner, Facilitator)

**I Need to Work On That (x1)** – Identify one specific thing that you would like to improve in your teaching, personal life, or cultural competence. Connect with Coordinator of Apprentices to get objective advice about a good area to focus on. Your plan must be presented at your Instructor level up, and will be reviewed at the end of the program. (**Required:** Instructor)

**You Scratch My Back** – MC one class with someone else's lesson plan. They may seek you out, or you may seek them out. The author can be in the class or not, but you and the other person need to coordinate to get it done, and you and the Coordinator of Apprentices must receive the lesson by email 24 hours before the class. Communicate with author afterwards to reflect on how it went and where you diverged from their lesson plan, including the Coordinator of Apprentices in the email conversation. This Challenge is different from **Dress Rehearsal** and **Try My Recipe**. This experience will not count toward your 25 Pies, nor will it allow you to pass a level because you are not writing the lesson plan. The DJ must mention this in the class report. May be repeated once during each stage. (Elective: Instructor, Practitioner, Facilitator)

**Last Minute Lesson** – MC a class with minimal preparation and no written lesson plan. You must notify the Coordinator of Apprentices the same day of the class in order to get credit for the challenge (it can be after your class too in the case that you cover a class for someone else), and the DJ must mention in the class report. This experience will not count toward your 25 Pies, nor will they allow you to pass a level because you are not writing the lesson plan. (Elective: Instructor, Practitioner, Facilitator)

**3, 2, 1, Contact!** - MC a class with 3 or fewer learners, and describe how you shifted your facilitation to make this an engaging and useful experience. You must notify the Coordinator of Apprentices the same day of the class in order to get credit for the Challenge, and the DJ must mention in the Class Report. (Elective: Instructor, Practitioner, Facilitator)

**Quinceañera** - MC a large class (ideally more than 20 participants). You must notify the Coordinator of Apprentices the same day of the class in order to get credit for the Challenge, and the DJ must mention in the Class Report. (Elective: Instructor, Practitioner, Facilitator)

**Other Points of View** – Observe a class that is not a part of the P-P-T network. Write a one page paper after the experience and send it to the Director of Apprentices. Do not critique the lesson! Describe one or more things that you liked, and describe one

or more things that the teacher did that is different from our approach, and justify why they made those choices. Email to the Coordinator of Apprentices the same day. (Elective: Instructor, Practitioner, Facilitator)

**Too Many Cooks** - MC a lesson where there are more assistants than learners, and describe your strategies for keeping everyone engaged. You must notify the Coordinator of Apprentices the same day of the class in order to get credit for the Challenge, and the DJ must mention in the Class Report. (Elective: Instructor, Practitioner, Facilitator)

**I'm Only The Piano Player** – Bring an instrument and teach a class a song in a single class setting. You must send your lesson plan to the Coordinator of Apprentices 24 hours before the class to get credit for the Challenge, and the DJ must mention in the Class Report. (Elective: Instructor, Practitioner, Facilitator)

**Guest Speaker** – MC a class with a guest speaker in some area that connects with your theme. This doesn't have to be someone famous or super notable – if you are doing In The Kitchen, and you have a friend who loves to make mashed potatoes, you can bring them in as a guest speaker. Ideally, you will invite an expert in some area to participate as the subject of language practice. You must send your lesson plan to the Coordinator of Apprentices 24 hours before the class to get credit for the Challenge, and the DJ must mention in the Class Report. May be repeated unlimited times. (Elective: Instructor, Practitioner, Facilitator)

**Bringing the Actual Pie** – To confront this challenge, you'll need to bring food for everyone in the group or ensure that food is brought for everyone (potluck is ok but you need to plan and coordinate). The food itself must contribute in a meaningful way to the lesson and classroom connection. Ideally, you would bake a pie from scratch and serve it up, but you don't have to do that. Make sure you clean up and check in about site policies. You must notify the Coordinator of Apprentices before the class to get credit for the Challenge, and the DJ must mention in the Class Report. (Elective: Instructor, Practitioner, Facilitator)

**Outdoor School** – Bring your class outside the classroom for at least ½ the lesson. You must MC the class and activities must appear in the lesson plan. This can be done indoors (such as in the library), but the action must take place outside of the classroom. You must notify the Coordinator of Apprentices before the class to get credit for the Challenge, and the DJ must mention in the Class Report. (Elective: Instructor, Practitioner, Facilitator)

**Deck of Professions (x1)** – Use the Deck of Professions in every activity in your class (besides the warm up sequence). You must notify the Coordinator of Apprentices

before the class in order to get credit for the Challenge, and the DJ must mention in the Class Report. (**Required:** Practitioner)

**Props (x5)** – Design 5 lessons, each centering on a different prop, some real-world item that is appropriate for the theme/module that you're working with. You must send your lesson to the Coordinator of Apprentices before the class. The Prop should be mentioned in the Class Report along with one specific, unique activity that you designed to work just with that prop. This is not the same as the **Deck of Professions**. (**Required 5x:** Practitioner)

**VJ** – Use a video clip and a computer to work with a song for at least one class. You must notify the Coordinator of Apprentices before the class to get credit for the Challenge, and the DJ must mention in the Class Report. (Elective: Practitioner, Facilitator)

**I'll Scratch Your Back** – Write a lesson plan for another MC. Talk with them after the class to find out what worked (they will need to email you with a reflection the same day). They may seek you out, or you may seek them out. Lesson must be written and sent via email 48 hours before the lesson takes place with a copy to the Coordinator of Apprentices for documentation. They don't necessarily need to do everything you say. DJ must document in the Class Report. The **Dress Rehearsal** and **Try My Recipe** are not the same. May be repeated unlimited times. (Elective: Practitioner, Facilitator)

**Language Whisperer** – Whisper the entire class. You must notify the Coordinator of Apprentices before the class in order to get credit for the Challenge, and the DJ must mention in the Class Report. (Elective: Practitioner, Facilitator)

**P-P-T PPT** – Create a Power Point presentation as a lesson plan and use it to guide you through the entire lesson. You can include multimedia (audio or video), pictures, instructions. You will need a projector if the group is more than 6 people. You can use this approach for Silent Class, but you cannot satisfy both challenges in the same class. You still need to produce a printed lesson plan for the class if you want it to count as one of your 25 Pies, but you should email the power point to everyone beforehand regardless. You must email the Coordinator of Apprentices with your power point 24 before the class in order to get credit for the Challenge, and the DJ must mention in the Class Report. (Practitioner, Facilitator)

**Can You Hear Me Now?** - Design a lesson that uses cell phone functions for language practice throughout the entire class (except for the warmup sequence). It can be texting in class, taking photos of each other, or even calling each other outside of class. You must email your lesson to Coordinator of Apprentices 24 hours before the

class in order to get credit for the Challenge, and the DJ must mention in the Class Report. (Elective: Practitioner, Facilitator)

**The Worst Day Of My Life** – After a class that you don't feel good about, write a minimum two page reflection and email it to the Coordinator of Apprentices the same day of the class. Let it all hang out. What went wrong? (Elective: Practitioner, Facilitator)

**The Happiest Day Of My Life** – After a class that you feel really great about, write a minimum two page reflection and email it to the Coordinator of Apprentices the same day of the class. How will you never be the same again? (Elective: Practitioner, Facilitator)

**New Shoes (x1)** – Research/invent 2 new activities and integrate them into a lesson plan. Send an email to the Coordinator of Apprentices 24 hours before class with the name of the activities, where you found them, and detailed instructions about **how** you will do them. The required reading includes plenty of good ideas, and you can also look up ideas on the internet or go to a bookstore and look at language teaching materials. You cannot complete this Challenge and another Challenge in the same class. Activities must be significantly different than anything you've tried before, and should still fit the requirements for good technique – be based in the real world and not fundamentally drawn from materials created primarily for language learning. The DJ must document in the Class Report. (**Required:** Practitioner)

**By The Book** – Design a lesson plan around a grammar point from a book designed for ESL, and send to the Coordinator of Apprentices 24 hours before the class. Write a one page paper that includes what you liked about that, and why we emphasize not using materials designed for ESL. Send this to the Coordinator of Apprentices. There are very powerful reasons why we don't rely on materials designed for ESL. It's not required that you agree with our reasoning, we just want to know that you know what the reasons are. (Elective: Practitioner, Facilitator)

**Silent Class (x2)** – MC 2 classes trying not to speak at all. Must be completed before your 5<sup>th</sup> Coached Experience “You're the Boss Now”. The two classes should be at the same location and ideally the same day of the week two weeks in a row. You must notify the Coordinator of Apprentices at least a week before you do the first one. The DJ must document on the Class Report. Each class counts as one challenge. (**Required 2x:** Facilitator)

**Sharpen Your Pencil (x1)** – As a WING, critique an Instructor's lesson plan. You will need to seek them out and make sure that you get a lesson plan in time to critique it and send to the Coordinator of Apprentices for review before sending to original

designer of the lesson. Lesson must be sent back to MC 24 hours before class begins.  
(**Required:** Facilitator)

**The Dark Side** – Design a lesson plan where every activity incorporates something that is “forbidden” - explain your activity, use worksheets and unmodified word games, teach out of a book, write on the board, prevent folks from working together. However, don't try to shame learners.. make it the best class you can. We just want you to try these “forbidden” activities and see for yourself. Send lesson to Coordinator of Apprentices 24 hours beforehand, and the DJ must mention in the Class Report. (Elective: Facilitator)

**Prodigy** – Write a 2 page paper about something that you think you're pretty good at, and how that shows up in your lessons. Email to the Coordinator of Apprentices. (Elective: Facilitator)

**Fantastic 4** – Make a list of 4 resources you use to make lessons. It can be a website, an organization that has lots of cool real-world materials, a book of activities you use, the Making it Real packet – anything you go back to over and over. For each resource, write a paragraph showing how you used it, what you liked about it... essentially, think of it as if you were telling someone else who was just starting and they wanted to know what you referred to to make your lessons. Email to the Coordinator of Apprentices for credit. (Elective: Facilitator)

**I Made a Difference** – Write a one page paper about how you personally observed something you did that changed a learner’s life. It can be that they can spell their name, or that you helped connect them to something that they were needing. It needs to be specific and demonstrable, and they have to be fully aware of that. Ideally, they will tell you when this happens, and that's how you'll know. Inviting you to their house for dinner might qualify. Document by sending via email to Coordinator of Apprentices to make sure. (Elective: Facilitator)