

Teaching and Learning Method - Cada Dia Spanish

Daily Online Task-based Social Language Learning The DOTS Method

The DOTS method is a dynamic approach to teaching in which participants explore real-world problems and challenges, focused on daily language events. Using this type of active and engaged learning, students are inspired to obtain a deeper knowledge of the subjects they're studying, by sharing with others in a live web-based meeting. Cada Dia Spanish employs DOTS as the principal method of learning to speak conversational Spanish. Students learn from each other and native language facilitators guide participants to gain greater skill in each learning event.

While it would be difficult to create a completely unique teaching method, DOTS combines proven classroom teaching strategies and delivers learning online in a new way. The DOTS method includes:

- Daily online practice sessions
- Task-based challenges
- Social learning
- Choice Theory strategies
- Blended Asynchronous and Synchronous strategies
- Native language facilitators
- Peer-to-peer teaching and learning

The foundation for this method of teaching and learning is broad and deep. In many respects, the method has its roots in the Socratic Method. However, education technology has provided an opportunity to improve autonomy for the individual and social learning opportunities. There are three families of thought related to educational theory: Behaviorism, Cognitivism and Constructivism. The DOTS method draws significantly from a constructivist perspective, by building knowledge through practical experiences. Tasks in this method are related to varying levels of language development. While it is possible for a novice to participate and share simpler tasks, more advanced speakers may share at a much higher level of language development in the same meeting. Meetings are recorded and available for self-criticism, and self-paced review.

References

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