Playful Practice with Plosives: Practicing plosives through product reviews

Directions for the teacher:

STEP 1 – Have students reflect on the manner of articulation by completing Task 1. Elicit words such as stop, hold, release, puff, and explosion.

STEP 2 – Have students identify the five other plosives. You may choose to use the term stops or even my own label the “Tie-Dyed” Group. For other user-friendly consonant groupings, see http://englishwithjennifer.wordpress.com/2011/10/24/rethinking-how-we-categorize-consonant-sounds/

Then have students reflect on the place of articulation by completing Task 2. Answers:

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<th>Lips</th>
<th>Tongue against or toward tooth ridge</th>
<th>Back of tongue toward roof of mouth</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>p</td>
<td>t</td>
<td>k</td>
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<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>g</td>
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STEP 3 – Use Task C to practice the six plosives in different positions and in different combinations. You can do this once as a class and again in pairs.

STEP 4 – Ask students to choose one of their personal belongings and prepare to tell the class about its pros and cons. This will be done in the format of a 30-second product review. They should use at least four phrases from Task C, Set 2. Additional prompts may be given on the board:

For (cell phones) my top pick is...
I’d like to tell you about a good buy.
I’d like to review (the generation 4 iphone).
I’m going to share my opinion about (the iphone).
Let me tell you about a product you won’t be disappointed with.
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Task A – Discuss these questions.
1. What parts of your mouth do you use to make /p/?
2. How exactly do you use those parts? Describe the manner of articulation.

Task B – Answer the questions with a partner. Correct your work as a class.
1. What other consonant sounds are made in the same manner as /p/? Can you identify all six sounds? List them. ____________________________
2. We do not use the same parts of our mouth to produce all six sounds. Can you group the six sounds in pairs according to place of articulation?

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Task C – Listen and Repeat.

**Set 1**
- happy plus pros
- buy bad bonus
- top best product
- downside upside disappointed
- cool cons pick
- good great big

**Set 2**
- best buy the upside a good product
- best of the best the downside a big plus
- pros and cons a cool product be disappointed
- happy buyer not a bad product my top pick

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