

CEFR Companion Volume implementation toolbox

# Classroom activity 3: Strategies to explain a new concept, *Breaking down complicated information*

**Title: Preparing a presentation on the operation of the telecommunications system**

Language: English

Target audience: Students of information and communications technology and telecommunications.

CEFR Level: B2

Purpose: Teaching and assessment

Authors: VITbox team

Goals of the activity:

- breaking a process into a series of steps;
- presenting ideas or instructions as bullet points;
- presenting separately the main points in a chain of argument.

0. Introduction.

As a part of a larger project about the national telecommunications infrastructure students are asked to prepare presentations in teams on the operation of constituent parts of the system based on a series of texts provided by the teacher.

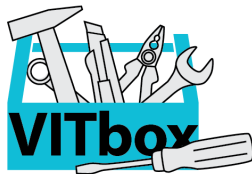
## 1. Warm-up

The activity starts with a discussion on ways of demonstrating a complex system and its operation in the form of a presentation. The focus is on using different types of diagrams to present a process and how the text should be presented graphically in bullet points in a logical and coherent way. Students are also given an opportunity to practise the vocabulary and structures used for describing processes.

## 2. Task 1. Preparation

Reading texts about different parts of the telecommunications system, e. g. the cellular network, the satellite system, the computer network, the telephone landline network.

Students are divided into teams which are supposed to prepare a fragment of the presentation devoted to the chosen network. They read respective texts and highlight the important information which will be useful for their part of the presentation. They are asked to think about the way the information can be presented in bullet points and how the processes can be transformed into a graphic form.



**3. Task 2. Transforming the information**

The students are asked to prepare the slides and practise giving the presentation.

**4. Task 3: Presentations and peer feedback**

Students present the parts of the telecommunications system and explain how they work. The activity is followed by a class discussion and peer feedback on the ways the systems have been presented and the processes explained.

**5. Task 4: Implementing newly gained skills in students' own research and writing**

Students are then invited to prepare diagrams and/or charts of their own research data and present them in the following class.

**Descriptors: CEFR level B2**

<p>CEFR Descriptor Scheme: Mediation/ Mediation strategies/Strategies to explain a new concept</p>	<p>Scale: Breaking down complicated information</p>
<p>Descriptors: Can make a complicated issue easier to understand by presenting the components of the argument separately. Can make a complicated process easier to understand by breaking it down into a series of smaller steps.</p>	