Arabic Phone Net Project
Lesson Plan Template 13
Higher Level (Abstract)

Phone Conversations Lesson Template
How Does That Make You Feel?

(To be used as a lesson in global understanding and making inferences from given, specific information)

Preparation

Download, print, and copy the listening worksheet provided in the lesson plan for students.

Objectives

1. Students practice both general and specific listening skills.
2. Students learn to note extra linguistic features and cues to make inferences about speakers' thoughts and emotions.

Warm Up (10 Minutes)

Instructor asks students to brainstorm and list ways that they can "read" a speaker's mind. Ask how they can tell in a non face-to-face interaction such as a telephone conversation. Now, cross off all those that rely on visual cues. How can you tell if somebody is angry on the phone? Bored? Distracted? After students speculate on these issues from their own frame of reference, contrast them to how speakers of Arabic express emotions other than through words. Correct students' assumptions if necessary.

Transition

Explain to students that you will be listening to a phone conversation in dialect. Give them some simple context information on the speakers and the topic. Explain that while one reason for listening to the conversation is to gain global understanding of what the speakers are saying, you will also be focusing on the inference skills needed on the DLPT V.

Listening Activity (15 Minutes)

Pass out the emotions list/emoticon sheet and ask students to note whether they hear any of the given emotions being expressed in the conversation and what clues they are using to make that determination.

Wrap Up (20 Minutes)

Share and discuss answers. Point out any mis-readings/misconceptions that students may have (i.e. rising voice pitch may indicate something completely different to an American vs. Arab listener.) Encourage them to continue to use the LingNet website and resources to practice listening to Arabic dialects and trying to infer emotions based on their new understanding of the topic.