

## DIY Toisto session 2024

A checklist for planning your own Toisto session

- Remember the main principles of the Toisto Method
  - > Toisto is a verbal method of teaching: no writing, no reading or grammar!
  - > Learning is based on plenty of repetition both together and individually.
  - > The themes of the sessions are based on everyday life.
  - > Teaching is based on clear pictures, most important words and phrases
  
- Choose the theme of the session carefully:
  - Choose a topic or a theme with words and phrases often needed in everyday life.
  - Can those words and phrases be presented as pictures?
  - Could the theme be combined with a visit to a particular place?
- Decide the level of the session:
  - 0-level sessions are independent without any requirement of previous language skills or knowledge.
  - 1-level sessions are based on an already practiced 0-level session. -> Would an already existing 0-level session be suitable for the session as a base? If so, go through the 0-sessions and utilize familiar words and phrases. If not, develop a 0-level session.
- Think about the words related to the theme:
  - Choose only the most relevant words related to the theme which can be presented as pictures.
  - The appropriate amount of new words per session is between 10-15 words. Less is more!
- Think about the phrases related to the theme:
  - Think about the everyday situations where simple phrases are used.
  - What kind of everyday question-answer dialogue might be useful to learn?
  - One session can have from around three to maximum five (3-5) phrases.
- Find the pictures for the session:
  - Find accessible pictures (for example from [Papunet](#) pictures).
  - You can also use photos or pictures from magazines etc.
  - Only use pictures that you have permission to use.
  - The pictures need to be large enough and unambiguous.
  - You may need to adjust the vocabulary to match the pictures.
- Plan the modeling of the vocabulary and two exercises:
  - The first exercise is always repeating the words with the picture cards.
  - Make sure you reserve sufficient time for repetition!
- Plan the modeling of the phrases and two exercises:
  - It is good to keep the first exercise as a simple question-answer dialogue.
  - You can add more words or parts in the second exercise.
- The functionality of the session:
  - Can the words and phrases be used in a functional way?  
Even a slight functional element adds to the activation and inclusion for the learners.
- Formulate the goal of the session clearly:  
"Today we will learn to say... We will also learn to say/ask..."

- Write the script for the session:
  1. Greetings and introductions
  2. Goals: "Today we will learn..."
  3. Modeling the vocabulary: Toisto guide speaks - assistant guide repeats - group repeats
  4. Modeling the assistant guide i.e. the "talking dictionary"
  5. Practicing the vocabulary - repeat many times!
  6. Modeling the dialogue: Toisto guide asks - "talking dictionary" answers - group repeats
  7. Practicing the dialogue - repeat many times!
  8. Finishing the session: disseminate the vocabulary sheets
  9. Praises, thanks and bye byes
  10. (Additional exercises, optional).
- Compile the vocabulary sheet
  - Compile the words and phrases with the pictures in the vocabulary sheet.
  - One A4-size sheet is enough. Please remember to use an easy font.
- Prepare other materials and props if needed:
  - List any extra materials or props, and write them in your session script.
- Check that Toisto Method's values safety, community, accessibility and joy will be realized in your session
  - Do not use flags to represent any languages because languages are not confined within the borders of states. Use neutral and unambiguous pictures, and check that the words and pictures are inclusive and not discriminatory or rely on hurtful stereotypes.
  - Make sure that all the exercises can be modeled understandably without the need to explain anything, and that they can be carried out safely.
- Go ahead and test your session and materials:
  - What works or needs to be changed? Edit your session as needed. If you want to share your own session with our project, please email it to: [info@toistomalli.fi](mailto:info@toistomalli.fi) (by end of March 2025).