Can you sign tacos?

Hey, WELCOME to my class
which is a LANGUAGE class
and so we want to learn all about language without using it to sign to anyone.
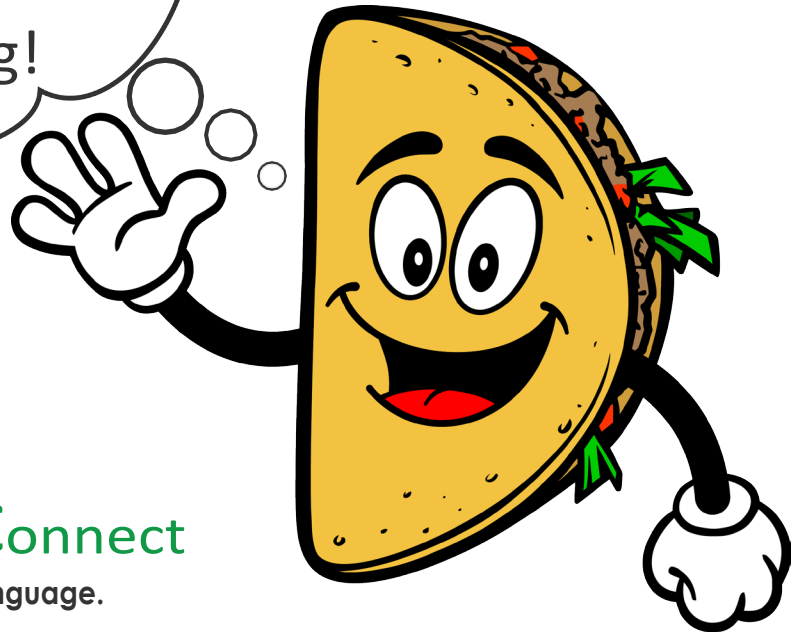Just Kidding!

Signing to people is what our class is all about!

We are on a journey to

Communicate & Connect

with real people who use real language.

We're charting our journey by discussing THE TWO BIG P's:

Proficiency & Performance

What's Proficiency?

Proficiency helps us stop focusing on **grades** that don't really tell us how we're doing.
and instead focus on and discuss **levels** that tell us what we can do and where we're headed next.

Quick Rundown:

Novice Low → Novice Mid → Novice High → Intermediate Low → Intermediate Mid → Intermediate High → Advanced Low...

What's Performance?

Performance is doing stuff with language -

It's how we show what we can do with our language, ACCORDING TO PROFICIENCY LEVEL.

How about an example?

How would you sign about tacos?

If you sign about tacos using just a few simple sings, you know

> beef, lettuce, cheese, yum!

that's an example of using language in our lowest measured proficiency level, Novice Low.

How about adding in some repetitive phrases?

> beef, cheese on top, lettuce on top, no hot sauce, eat every day

now you've moved up to performing with some language in our next level, Novice Mid.

When you can put some sentences together (still simple!)

> I like tacos. Tacos, beef and I like beef. I put cheese. My friend John, no cheese. He doesn't like cheese.

CONGRATS! You've graduated to performing some tasks in our goal for level 1, Novice High.

Where are we going next?

We're adding connectors and more vocabulary and creating with language:

> My family eats tacos a lot, often, because we all love the tacos. My mom makes amazing the tacos. She finds recipes on some web site and makes best tacos with different ingredients. Do you want you come to my house to try my mom's tacos?

WHOA - that's a performance in a whole new level called Intermediate,
and it's divided into low, mid, and high too!

In our class we discuss our work by figuring out two things:

1) what proficiency level am I showing here?
2) how can I work on moving to the next level?

Because when we ask these questions, what we're really asking is:

1) how can I connect with more people today?
2) how can I connect with them tomorrow?

Enjoy the journey!

So now how would we sign about tacos?!

If you sign about tacos by combining what you know to make short statements and simple sentences, making yourself understood even with some mistakes,

> My family eat tacos a lot because my mom makes best tacos. She makes tacos, amazing, with different ingredients. You want eat my mom's tacos at my place soon?

that's an example of using language in the first proficiency level above novice, Intermediate Low.

How about adding in more connections, more variety, more questions?

> Because all we absolutely love them, my mom cooks tacos pretty often. She finds the instructions to cook them on a some website. How about come to my house to try

Now you're usually able to communicate what you want even if there are some "mistakes," and you've moved up to performing with some language in our next level, Intermediate Mid.

Where to next? Keep going and you'll confidently describe, sign stories about some experiences in vari- ous time frames, and even handle some unexpected complications!

> What you mean you don't like tacos? I know, you had bad tacos once, right? I went to a taco stand in Texas one time and I was threw up for some hours! I mean, sick as a dog. I thought, I don't want tacos again another time and then my mom made tacos de lengua with cilantro and onions from Mexico and I thought, ¡olé! My friends need to try these tacos, they're like the heaven! So, Monday after school?

Congrats, you've graduated to performing some tasks in: Intermediate High.

But what if you start confidently handling unexpected complications? Organizing communication well, throwing in info from various parts of life like social problems?

> Do you have any idea where that avocado on your taco came from? Probably it came from Mexico, the center part. I heard the news that there is drought in Mexico and not only, also there have been societal problems the government can't handle. Problems in society make it difficult to pick and sell and transport the avocados.

WHOA - That's a performance in a whole new level called Advanced - low, mid, & high of course!

In our class we talk about all our work by figuring out two things:

1) what proficiency level am I showing here?
2) how can I work on moving to the next level?

Because when we ask these questions, what we're really asking is:

1) how can I connect with more people today?
2) how can I connect with them tomorrow?