

# What is a task?

On his [website](#), the well-known teacher trainer and book author Jack Richards helps us understand the difference between EXERCISE, ACTIVITY and TASK. Can YOU now drag the options in the box to the right gaps?

ACTIVITY   ACTIVITIES   EXERCISE   EXERCISES   TASK   TASK   TASK   TASKS

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Professor Jack C. Richards

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## Difference Between Task, Exercise, Activity

Question:

Submitted by Jayanta Das, India

What is the difference between a task, an exercise and an activity?

Professor Richards Responds:

These terms are understood differently depending on who defines them. I use them as follows:



A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ is a teaching procedure that involves controlled, guided or open-ended practice of some aspect of language. A drill, a cloze activity, a reading comprehension passage can all be regarded as \_\_\_\_\_.

The term \_\_\_\_\_ is more general and refers to any kind of purposeful classroom procedure that involves learners doing something that relates to the goals of the course. For example, singing a song, playing a game, taking part in a debate, having a group discussion, are all different kinds of teaching \_\_\_\_\_.

A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ is normally defined as follows:

- It is something that learners do, or carry out, using their existing language resources or those that have been provided in pre-\_\_\_\_\_ work.
- It has an outcome which is not simply linked to learning language, though language acquisition may occur as the learner carries out the \_\_\_\_\_.
- It is relevant to learners' needs.
- It involves a focus on meaning.
- In the case of \_\_\_\_\_ involving two or more learners, it calls upon the learners' use of communication strategies and interactional skills.
- It provides opportunities for reflection on language use.