

STRATEGY GROUP: Metacognitive

STRATEGY SET: Centering your learning

STRATEGY: Paying attention

The strategy of paying attention is necessary for all of the language skills. This strategy involves two modes:

- *Directed attention* means deciding generally or globally to pay attention to the task and avoid irrelevant distractors. Encourage directed attention by providing interesting activities and materials, reducing classroom distractors, reminding students to focus, and rewarding them when they do so.
- *Selective attention* involves deciding in advance to notice particular details. Facilitate selective attention by giving learners an incomplete chart to fill out, a table or checklist on which to mark details, or some other activity which requires attention to specifics.

Emily decides to pay close attention to the way characters in her German short story brings conversations to a close and how they use polite phrases. In reading a Tolstoy novel in Russian, Chlöe focuses on the names and tries to remember who's who.