



**Zooming in and zooming out:  
Teaching children in refugee camps through simple video  
conferencing tools**

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**<https://handsupproject.org/>**

# Telling stories to children in Zaatari refugee camp, Jordan



Astrophysicist, John-David Bartoe, on leaving the earth  
in the Space shuttle in 1985

*“As I looked down, I saw a large river meandering slowly along for miles, passing from one country to another without stopping. I also saw huge forests, extending along several borders. And I watched the extent of one ocean touch the shores of separate continents. Two words leaped to mind as I looked down on all this: commonality and interdependence. We are one world.”*

Zooming in or zooming out?



	Zooming in	Zooming out
Listening	Eavesdropping on a conversation in the target language on a bus, and trying to process what was said into individual words	Listening to the news on the radio and trying to understand what the stories are.
Reading	Identifying new words in a newspaper article, and looking them up in a dictionary.	Reading a short story for pleasure and getting lost in the 'secondary world' created by the author.
Speaking	Singing the words of a song which have been learnt off by heart.	Introducing yourself, and finding out about others at a party.
Writing	Writing down some new vocabulary to create some flash cards for self study.	Writing a quick email to a friend.



Picture drawn by Sarah Nasser Alhamid,  
Zaatari refugee camp, Jordan



- How many fish are in the river?
- Three (3)
- How many times does the man shout 'Hello!'
- Three (3)
- What colour is the mountain?
- Brown

# Zooming in....

Physical stories

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bieq0TdJzYE>

How many words?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAHuz3O97EQ>

Guess five words

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZcRhYxSQfs>

What's in the fridge?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZcRhYxSQfs>

The inners and the outers of classroom language

<https://handsupproject.org/2015/12/12/the-inner-and-the-outer/>



# Zooming out...

From Russia with love

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iophkubvxbM>

Contextualised drilling

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lCZcXpVJmhY>

Tense conversations

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SrWjY-T3EdA>

The story of sea glass soup

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=06MMbBggqRTQ>

The story of the lion and the mouse

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1fEhOp3Thc>



