

# Overview - Intermediate Mid

## **Lesson Information**

### **Positive Psychology Learning Outcomes**

Students will...

1. discuss the meaning of mindfulness.
2. recognize the importance of mindfulness.
3. identify how mindfulness helps language learning.

### **Language Learning Outcomes**

Students will...

1. connect content to background knowledge.
2. use high-frequency general vocabulary.
3. recognize voiced vs voiceless pronunciation.

### **Materials Needed**

- [Mindfulness Overview](#)
- [How Mindfulness Empowers Us: An Animation Narrated by Sharon Salzberg](#)
- [Everyday Mindfulness](#)
- [10 Minute Guided Meditation for Focus](#)
- [Headspace Guide to Meditation \(Netflix\)](#)
- [Relaxing Nature Sounds](#)

## Overview

Mindfulness is about being aware of yourself and your surroundings.

- How can you apply being aware to language learning?

Watch the following video:

[How Mindfulness Empowers Us: An Animation Narrated by Sharon Salzberg](#)

<https://youtu.be/vzKryaN44ss>

Have students take a couple of minutes to think silently on the following questions:

- In what way do you feed your generous wolf?
- In what way do you feed your angry wolf?
- How can this apply to language learning?

## **Activate Background Knowledge**

Help students understand the concept of mindfulness by contrasting “mindful” and “mindless”. You might review what -ful and -less mean.

1. Write down things that you can do mindlessly (i.e. breathing, heartbeats, hiccups)
2. Write down things that you can do mindfully (memorizing, paying attention in class, speaking English)

Explain that today we will talk about being more mindful (even of mindless activities such as breathing) and how it can benefit our learning and our lives.

## Activity 1: Vocabulary

Write the following words on the board. Review definitions and pronunciation of each word. Help students connect the meaning of “full” and “less” to the definitions of mindful and mindless.

Breathe

Breath

Attention

Focus

Present

Aware

Inhale

Exhale

You may use the following image to better understand the word “mindful” (Also found in slides)

Retrieved from: <https://edtechbooks.org/-gLEw>

## **Activity 2: Listening**

Watch the following introduction to mindfulness. Have students pay attention to the benefits of mindfulness. After students watch the video, ask first how well they stayed focused before talking about the clip.

[Everyday Mindfulness](#)

<https://youtu.be/QTsUEOUaWpY>

After discussing their experience staying focused, you can ask the following questions.

- How can we be mindful?
- What are some benefits of mindfulness that you heard in the video?
- How can mindfulness benefit your life?
- How can mindfulness help you learn a language?

## **Activity 3: Speaking**

In groups, have the students answer the questions from the video. Afterwards, discuss as a class. Praise students when they talk about coping with distractions, staying focused, etc.

## Activity 4: Pronunciation

One way mindfulness can help us is in pronunciation. When we are mindful of our body, especially the way our mouth is shaped or moving, we are better able to pronounce sounds that are unfamiliar or difficult to us. You can demonstrate this by being mindful of your voice when you say voiced and voiceless consonants. For example:

Retrieved from : <https://edtechbooks.org/-srod>

It might be helpful to have them place their fingers on their throat (approximately where the vocal cords are located) so that they can feel the vibration and understand the difference better.

Breathe vs Breath

Practice this with the following words:

Fan vs Van

Tent vs Dent

Pot vs Bot

Sip vs Zip

Depending on the class, you may present how mindfulness can help us understand the shape of our mouth and practice sounds that we might commonly confuse. If we are mindful and aware of the movements in our mouths, we will be better able to pronounce instead of mindlessly making mistakes.

Retrieved from: <https://edtechbooks.org/-FTA>

B vs. V

Ban vs van

Retrieved from: <https://edtechbooks.org/-sigf>

L vs. R

Rice vs lice

## **Activity 5: Speaking**

Place students in partners. Have students practice the pronunciation by reading various sentences. (These sentences can be found in the slides) You might practice these as a class as well.

Voiced vs. Voiceless:

Push the button.

Talk with a dog.

Zip your coat.

Sip your drink.

B vs. V



I bought a very nice volleyball.

Berries are very delicious.

L vs. R

I would love a little rice.

I really like rap music.

We really love waffles.

It might be helpful to have them place their fingers on their throat (approximately where the vocal cords are located) so that they can feel the vibration and understand the difference better. As they do this, encourage students to be mindful of their own body and its ability to produce sound.

## **Activity 6: Speaking**

Have students answer and discuss the following question in groups. As the class is coming to an end, you can encourage students to think and talk about how well they stayed focused through the lesson and how the experience might have been different.

- How can mindfulness help us be better students and language learners?

## Activity 7: Listening

Explain that after practicing mindfulness in everyday taste like pronunciation, we can also be mindful when we meditate. Explain that with each lesson we will do a short meditation to help us be more mindful. Kindly invite students to bring a slight but real smile while meditating.

### Two options for meditation:

1. [Headspace Guide to Meditation \(Netflix\)](#): Episode 1 (From 9:00 - about 18:30)

2. 10 Minute Guided Meditation for Focus

[10 Minute Guided Meditation for Focus](#)

<https://youtu.be/ausxoXBrmWs>

## Homework

Ask the students to participate in their own meditation. Provide them with the following video (or they might find a meditation in their own language). Have the students share their experiences. Invite students to pay close attention to the way they feel during the meditation exercise and to stay focused on the activity while they are doing it. You may also remind them that it is okay if they get distracted, they can just kindly bring back their attention to the meditation. Students will share their experiences on Tuesday.

[Headspace Guide to Meditation \(Netflix\)](#)

<https://youtu.be/c1Ndym-IsOg>

## Follow-Up

### Tuesday:

Have students share their experiences with meditation from their homework. You can ask questions such as:

- How did you feel while meditating? And after meditating?
- How would you describe your mood before and after meditating?

Praise students when they talk about coping with distractions, staying focused, or even when they open up about how they felt, etc.

### Wednesday:

Share the following quote and ask students what it means to them. Highlight any comments related to focusing one's attention in the present moment. You can encourage students to briefly discuss what strategies they use to stay focused in the present and how this helps them be happier. Review what it means to be present.

“The present moment is filled with joy and happiness. If you are attentive, you will see it.”

— Thich Nhat Hanh, [Peace Is Every Step: The Path of Mindfulness in Everyday Life](#)

### Thursday:

Watch this one-minute nature meditation video. Before watching the video encourage students to kindly bring their attention to the present moment and to try to stay focused.

[Relaxing Nature Sounds](#)

[https://youtu.be/nqye02H\\_H6I](https://youtu.be/nqye02H_H6I)

Help students make a plan to be more mindful during this semester.

For example:

- Meditate once a week. As a part of this goal, you can invite students to set a time and a place to remove distractions and stay focused for 5 minutes practicing meditation.
- Be more present with friends by not checking their phones while interacting with them.
- Take a few minutes of quiet time without technology before bed



*Positive Psychology in the Classroom.*

<https://edtechbooks.org/PositivePsychologyintheClassroom>