Leveraging Zoom for Languages

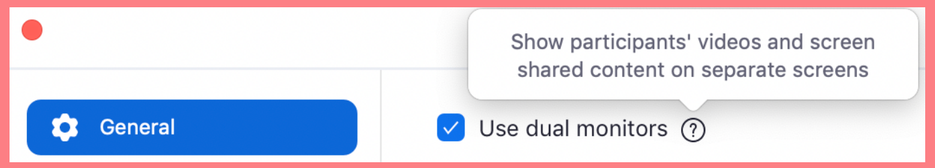
Anderson Language and Technology Center
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

REBECCA ALLISON

ALTEC Program Manager

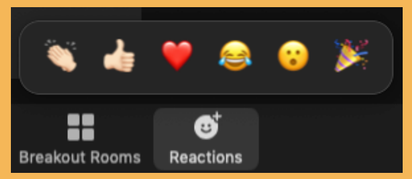
Level up your Zoom game.

- Leverage Zoom features for language instruction
- Increase learner engagement in breakout rooms and with games
- Ask questions and practice!

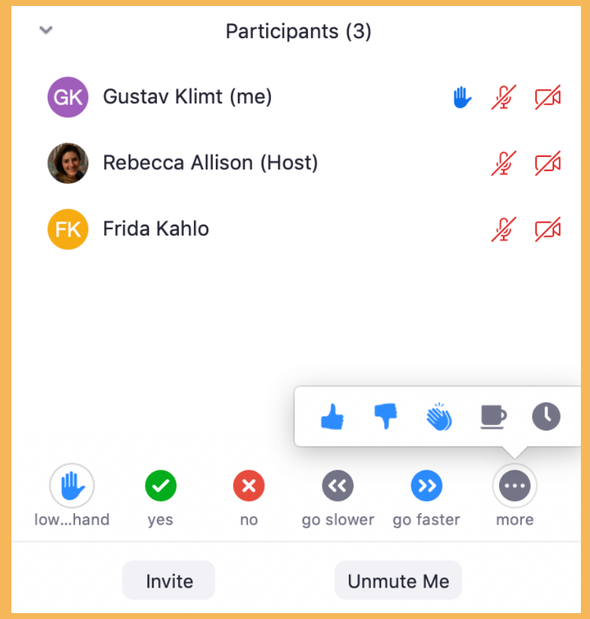


Formative Assessment

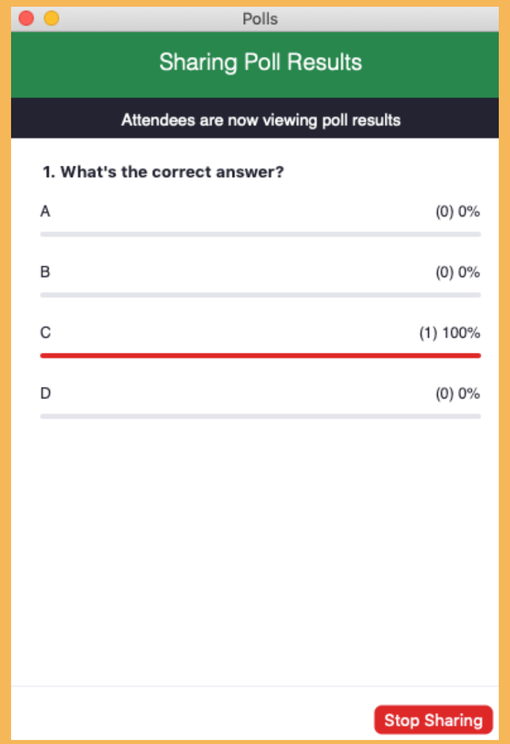
Reactions



Nonverbal feedback

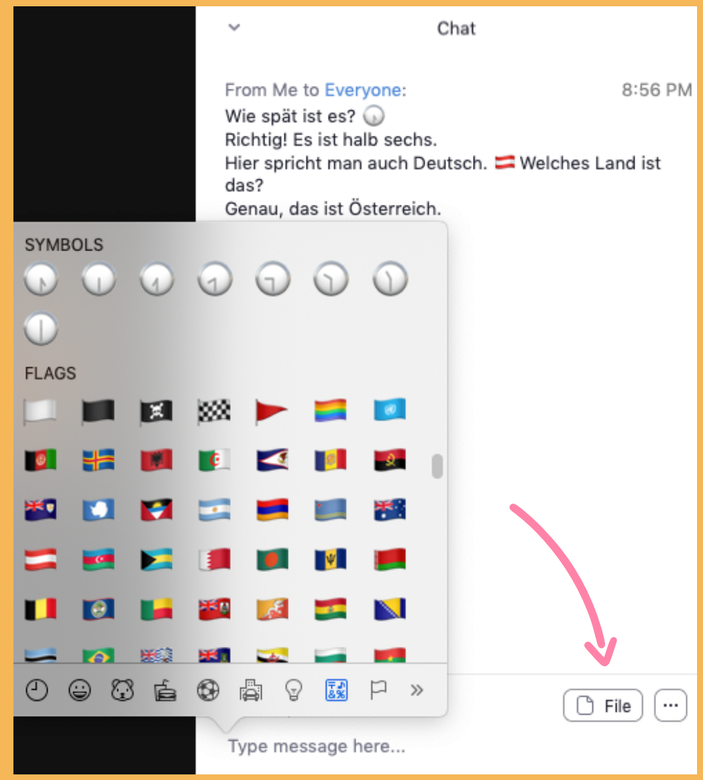


Polling

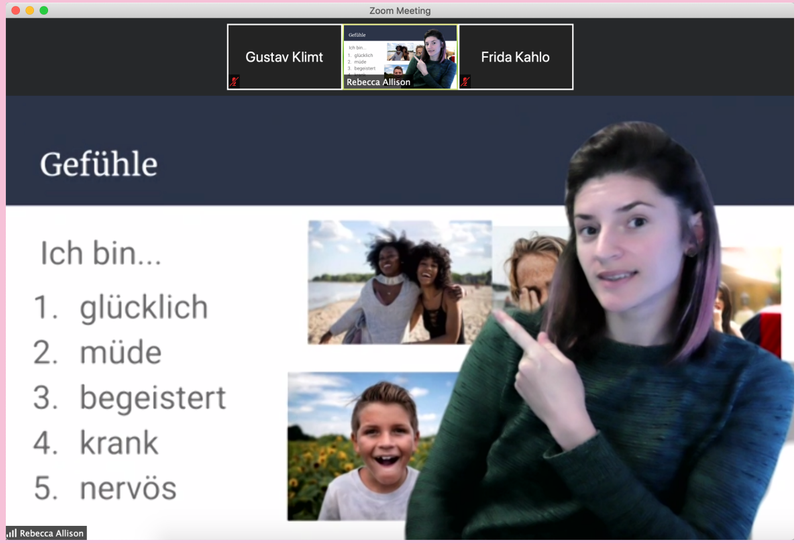


Quick tip! Create dummy polls (true/false, ABCD) in advance to use on the spot for any formative assessment

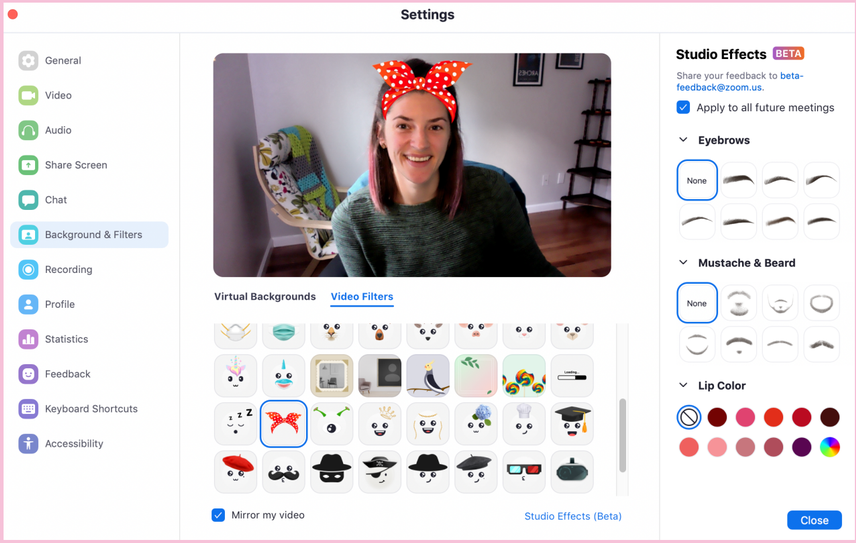
Chat files & emojis



Video Tools

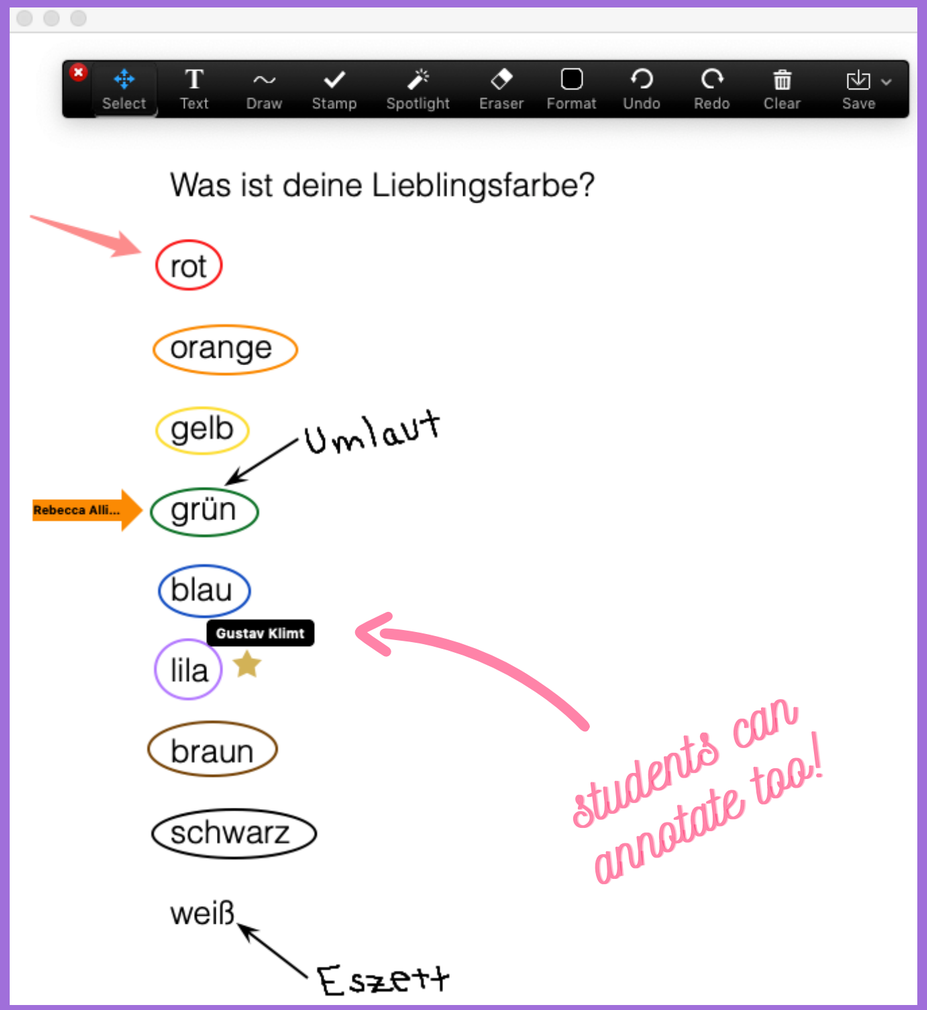


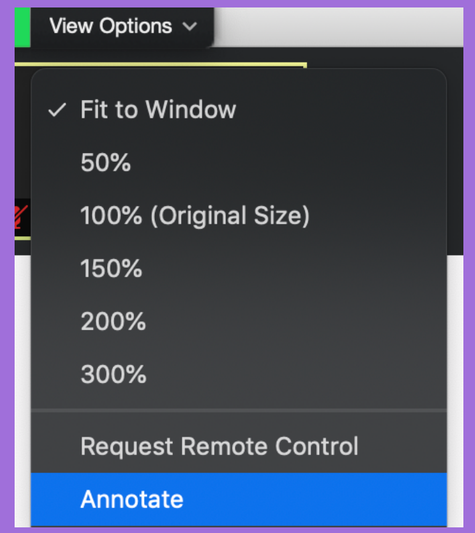
Play with backgrounds, filters and effects



Want to get low-tech fancy? Use a green screen!
Game idea: Start describing a place, slowly revealing portions of the image to students as extra hints.

Whiteboard + Annotation





Smart tip! Use the Zoom annotation tool when presenting

Boost student engagement

ideas

show and tell

roleplay or simulate a scenario

reflection or takeaway

solve a problem within a time limit

group discussion

create a puzzle/ game

interview

tools

whiteboard

collaboration tools like Google Docs

multimedia tools like Canva & Adobe Spark

Sample exercise to engage students in interpersonal and presentational communication:

1. Assign students to breakout rooms.
2. Each group has 5 minutes to come up with a fictitious product everyone will want to buy.
3. Use the whiteboard tool to draw the product. Click the save button to save as a PNG/PDF.
4. Come back to the main session and share the file in the chat or screen share. Each group presents and sells their product.
5. Take a poll to find out whose product will get crowd-funded.

Using Games

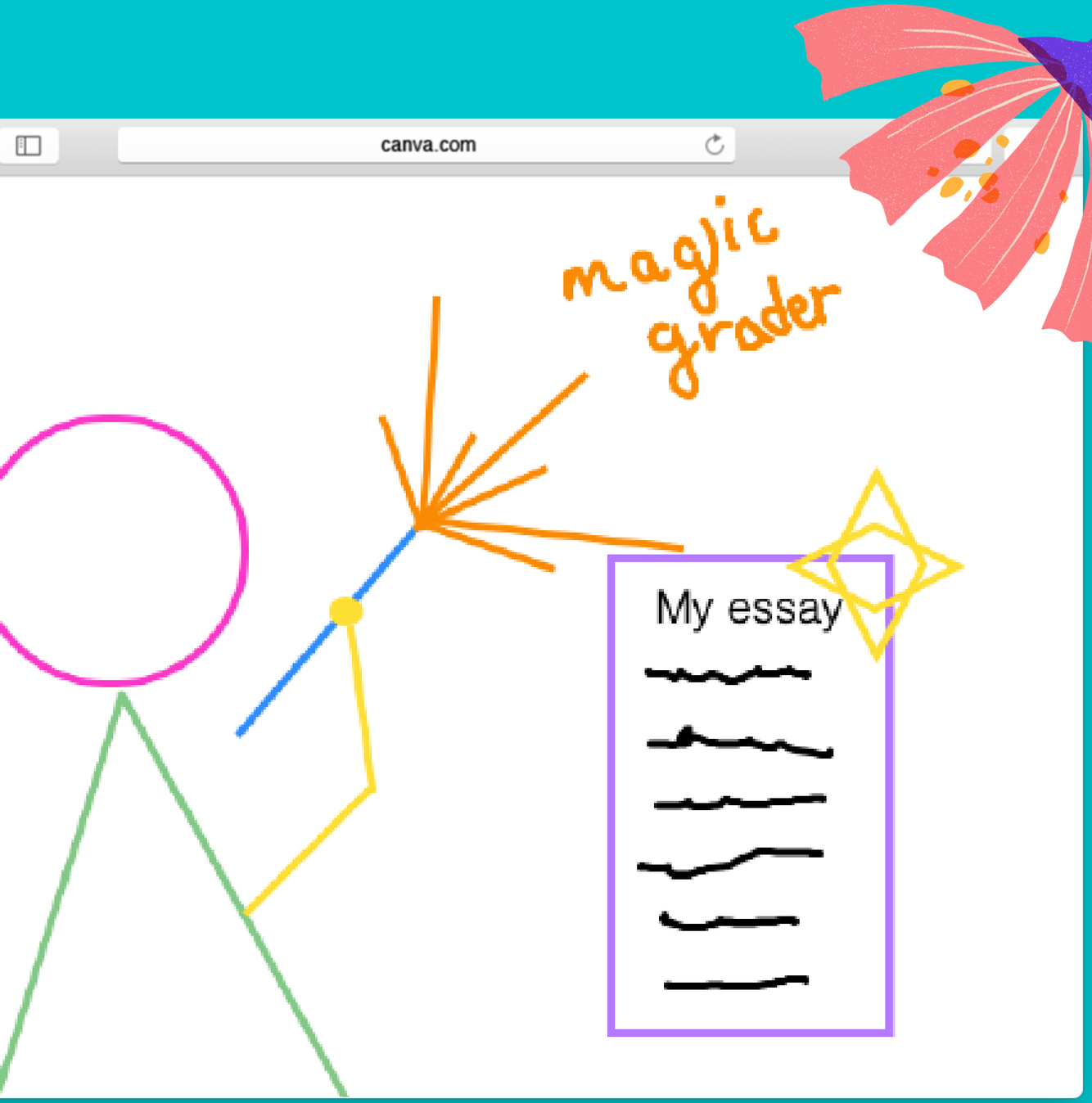
Play a song on lyricstraining.com in choice mode and share your screen. As your students listen, the screen will show blanks and multiple options on the right. With the Zoom Annotate feature, let your students tell you which option to choose.

where in the world: share your screen and zoom in on an image of a place; describe the location and slowly zoom out as students guess

directed drawing: students listen to a description and draw the image/ scene

charades, pictionary, simon says, show & tell... or use a game platform like Kahoot or Quizlet

magnetic poetry: students add word/ phrase elements to a whiteboard (think Mad Libs) and then rearrange them to construct sentences to practice sentence structure



Let's discuss.

1) What's working well in your Zoom class? What could be better?

2) Brainstorm time! Take 5 minutes to collect additional ideas for achieving language learning outcomes through highly engaging activities on Zoom at bit.ly/35zHpTn.

3) What's one activity idea you'll try in your class?

Time to ask questions!

Looking for more learning opportunities? Need 1:1 help?
Visit us online and reach out!

- ALTEC faculty learning + remote language instruction resources
- altec@colorado.edu