

Yuna's important Day

Topic

Writing a short story

Aims

- To develop writing skills in the context of writing a short story
- To develop the ability to identify and use narrative tenses when writing
- To develop the ability to work co-operatively in pairs or in a small group

Age group

Teenagers or adults

Level

B2

Time

One hour 10 minutes

Materials

1. Worksheet 1 ([downloadable from LearnEnglish Teens](#))
2. Answer key for Worksheet 1
3. Worksheet 2

Introduction

This lesson uses materials in the [writing skills section on LearnEnglish Teens](#) and focuses on helping students plan and write a story. Helping students to develop their writing skills can be challenging. Writing in class may be considered quite boring and some teachers prefer to get their students to do written work at home. However, the results of writing done at home can be variable. In order to produce a good piece of written work, students need to learn to plan carefully before they start writing. Writing a short story is one of the possible writing tasks for Part 2 of the Cambridge First Certificate exam. Story writing should engage students' imagination and can be turned into a fun, collaborative and communicative experience.

Worksheet 1 consists of three pages and covers stages 1 – 4 of this lesson plan. It can be downloaded here:

http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/sites/teens/files/a_story_-_exercises.pdf

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The answer key for worksheet 1 is available here:

http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/sites/teens/files/a_story_-_answers.pdf

Worksheet 2 is available here:

https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/sites/teacheng/files/April2014_Story_Worksheet_2.pdf

In worksheet 1, there is a range of quite simple tasks that students work through in pairs or small groups before they write their own story.

Students use worksheet 2 to plan and then write a short story.

Procedure

1. Preparation (8 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put students into pairs or groups of three. They can do all the activities in these groups. Students should be encouraged to speak as much English as possible when they discuss the answers to the exercises and plan their short stories. Give each group a copy of the first page of worksheet 1. Students read the story at the bottom of the page then work together to answer the six true/false sentences in the exercise entitled "Preparation". When students have finished, check the answers to this exercise using the answer key. Answer any questions your students may have about this exercise.
2. Check your understanding: multiple choice (5 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give your students page 2 of worksheet 1. Students work together and read the story again then circle the correct answers in Exercise 1 entitled "Check your understanding: multiple choice". When students have finished, check the answers to this exercise using the answer key. Answer any questions your students may have about this exercise.
3. Check your writing: matching – tenses (5 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask your students to complete Exercise 2 on the bottom half of page 2 entitled "Check your writing: matching – tenses". When students have finished, check the answers to this exercise using the answer key. Answer any questions your students may have about this exercise.
4. Check your writing: gap fill – tenses (5 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask your students to do Exercise 3 on page 3 of worksheet 1. When students have finished, check the answers to this exercise using the answer key. Answer any questions your students may have about this exercise.
5. Writing a story – planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give each group or pair a copy of worksheet 2. Tell your students they are going to write a short story of between 120 -180 words in length in their pairs or groups. The

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stage (12 minutes)	<p>story must begin with the following sentence: “While Yuna was having breakfast, she knew that this was going to be a very important day in her life.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain that a good story should be well planned. Ask students to plan their stories by discussing questions 1 – 6 on worksheet 2 • While students discuss their ideas you should circulate giving support to the groups and helping provide ideas if necessary. • After 10 minutes, ask some groups to explain their ideas to the rest of the class.
6. Writing the story (25 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask students to begin writing their stories and tell them they should finish in 25 minutes.
7. Students read each other’s stories (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As groups finish their stories, let students read each other’s work and ask them if they understand and like the stories of other groups.
8. Follow up and feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the following lesson, you could copy some of the best stories and give them to the whole class to read. Students could work in small groups and decide what mark they would give each story (5 = excellent, 4 = good, 3 = pass, 2 = narrow fail and 1 = fail). Students should justify their marks by commenting on the content of the story, organization and range and accuracy of language.

Contributed by

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