

Activity Type

Reading and writing activity, group work

Language Focus

Articles (a, an, the)

Nouns

Adjectives

Past simple narrative

Story telling

Aim

To write a story with article and noun cards.

Preparation

Make one copy of the cards for each group of three and cut as indicated.

Level

Pre-intermediate

Time

45 minutes

Introduction

In this creative teaching activity, students write stories with article and noun cards. This activity can also be used to practice narrative tenses and adjectives.

Procedure

Divide the class into groups of three.

Give each group a set of cards.

Ask the students to spread the cards out face up on the table.

Tell the students that they are going to write a story in their groups using as many of the article and noun cards as possible.

Elicit story genres from the students and write them on the board, e.g. a horror story, a love story, a science fiction story, etc.

Ask the students to decide on the type of story they want to create and choose one student in their group to do the writing.

In their groups, the students brainstorm their ideas and arrange the cards in order to make a story. Each group then writes their story using the article and noun cards.

Encourage the students to add adjectives to each noun to make their story more descriptive, e.g. 'a journey' could be changed to 'a long tiring journey'.

Remind the students that they must use the exact words on the cards and that sometimes they may need to use the same noun with a different article, e.g. 'Kevin grabbed a jacket as he ran out the door. When Kevin touched the jacket, he felt something strange inside...'

When the students have finished, each group pairs up with another group and reads their story to them.

The two groups give feedback to each other and help with any grammatical errors, paying close attention to the use of articles.

Afterwards, groups take it in turns to read their stories to the class.

Award points to each group based on how many cards they used, the story line, use of articles, grammar, adjectives, etc.

a journey

an invitation

the limit

the sun

the darkness

a jacket

the light

a kiss

a newspaper

a motorbike

a ghost

the hill

the fire

the ocean

a gun

a letter

an eagle

a game

the garden

the kitchen

the jungle

a suitcase

a noise

a woman

an enemy

the United States

a stranger

a box

the store

an explosion

the boy

an accident

the road

the king

a path

the night

the TV

the end

a flower

the village

a house

the weekend

a man

a phone

the moon

the knife

an hour

the problem