

UNEX Developing Written Skills



Title: Stop the bus

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Keywords: #writing skills, #creative writing, #vocabulary, #grammar, #writing game, #text structure

Duration: *Approximately 30 mins.*

Description:

This activity is a great warm up for classes that requires absolutely no preparation. As long as the students have pens and paper, the teacher can do this activity at any point!

The activity is great for students between 8 and 15 years old.

Objectives:

1. Practicing grammar
2. Practicing vocabulary
3. Sentence structure
4. Creativity
5. Reading

Activity(ies) (Stages):

1. The teacher writes a letter on the board and tells the students to write down as many words as they can. At the same time, they have to follow the rule that all of their written words have to start with the letter written on the blackboard from the teacher.
2. When a student can't think of any more words, they must shout "Stop the bus!" and everyone must stop writing.
3. Every student needs to pick up one word of his written words.
4. As a next step the teacher has to group the students two by two and they have to share with each other what words they have chosen. This way every student now has two words – his own and the word of his partner.
5. When the words are clear to everyone, the students have to write an essay/ story which is in connection to the two words they have chosen with his partner. The teacher can set a timer and limit the amount of words for the writing and announce the start and the end of the writing.
6. When the time is over, the team members have to exchange their papers and read the paper of their teammate in order to see how the other student connected the two words with the written text and to mark if there are any grammar, vocabulary or sentence structure mistakes.

Tips for trainers

To make it more challenging, the teacher can mix the students in bigger groups with 3/ 4 students and they would have to be more creative and to match 3/ 4 words and to write an essay/ story about it.

The texts can be written by handwriting or by computer, based on the teacher decision.

Moreover, the teacher can define a minimum and maximum amount of written words.

List of resources, materials etc.

Pens / pencils and paper for each of the students.

Black/ white board and marker

Evaluation/Feedback

The teacher will provide feedback on the applicability of the method.

The teacher evaluates students' comprehension ability after each activity, according to the written results.

In addition, the teacher can collect the final texts and make the evaluation based on the writing results.