

Lesson plan

Narrating in Simple Past with Video

If a picture speaks a thousand words then motion pictures must express millions. Although video can be used as a stimulus to write in a variety of genres, styles and persuasive forms, this activity uses video to produce a narrative paragraph.

- Objectives
 - To provide practice in constructing simple past tense forms and checking for subject verb agreement.
 - To give students a context to write a narrative paragraph using appropriate temporal adjectives and past tense forms.
- Materials:
 - Video segment depicting a series of actions.
- Preparation:
 - Select the video segment.
 - Write a target narrative paragraph to determine the number and nature of the verbs that are likely to be used.
 - Make a list of these target verbs and supplement the list with related verbs.
- Procedure:
 - Warm-up (to pre-teach or stimulate thinking about verb forms)
 - Make a list of lexical verbs including those that might be useful in the following activity.
 - Read the present tense for one by one to each student. Student should supply the correct simple past form. Use pronouns before the verb forms to increase some awareness of subject verb agreement in present tense forms.
 - Read the past tense using a pronoun form with the verb. Student should supply the correct present tense form with subject pronoun agreement.
- Task:
 - Form small groups (3-4) and watch video segment.
 - Write a short summary of what happened, step by step in simple past. Use temporal markers like first, then, next, finally, at the end, etc.
 - Ask one group member to read the summary aloud.
 - Ask a different group member to list the verb forms used on the board, writing both the simple past and the present tense forms.
 - Repeat steps 3 and 4 for each group.