

Bringing the classroom alive with 'Real English' – authentic and course book materials

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Writing

- 1 Play clips of music and ask students to think or take notes on the situation the music provokes: Where? When? Who? What?
- 2 Put students into pairs and ask them to tell each other their ideas and to agree on one piece of music.
- 3 When the students are ready, get them to write the story or a dialogue. Monitor and help out as necessary.
- 4 When they have finished, put them into small groups to read their story or dialogue to each other. Ask them to think of a title together or think of an adjective that describes the story.

Song:

- 1 Put the following words in phonetics on the board: train, door, there, space. As you put each one on the board, elicit words that rhyme i.e: rain, reign, Spain, mane, main etc. When you have finished you might like to highlight the spelling correlation with the sound.
- 2 Tell the students you are going to dictate the 1st, 3rd, 5th & 7th line of the first verse of a song (tell them that if they have heard the song, not to say anything). Then dictate line-by-line, at normal speed and once only. When you have finished get them to compare and check together as a class using an OHT.
- 3 Tell them they are going to rewrite the song, using the prompts from the board (step1). Monitor and help out as necessary.
- 4 Get a selection to read out their versions for the class – they could vote for the 'best' one.
- 5 Then play the song, 1st verse only. Then replay the first verse stopping after line 2, 4, 6 & 8, using it as a dictation. Get the students to compare in pairs and check together as a class using and OHT.
- 6 Continue with the second verse following steps 1-5.
- 7 Ask the students to work in pairs and decide what the song is about and what happens next. Then play verse 3 and compare their ideas.

Optional extension:

- 1 Speaking: Tell the students that the characters are in the room and they can think of questions to ask them. Then get one students to sit at the front of the class and to 'be' the character....continue with other characters
- 2 Writing: Ask the students to write an email/letter giving the character some advice on what to do.

Reading:

Prepare the comprehension questions on an OHT.

- 1 Show the students the headline from the article and get them to predict the story.
- 2 Reveal the first comprehension question on an OHT and ask the students to write the first lines/paragraph. When they have finished, get a selection in open class and put one example on the board. Then together encourage them to make it more interesting.
- 3 Continue with the rest of the comprehension questions and encourage the students to use more descriptive language as you monitor.
- 4 When they have finished, ask them to compare their versions in pairs.
- 5 Get a random sample in open class.
- 6 Then get them to read the original article and compare ideas.

Advertisements:

- 1 Find a selection of advertisements and decide on one word in each slogan to cover up.
- 2 Give each pair one of the words and a dictionary. They look up the word and find two or more common meanings of it.
- 3 When they have finished, ask the students to move around the room and tell each other the meanings of the words.
- 4 Place the advertisements around the room, with the 'key' word blanked out and number them.
- 5 Tell the students to write in the notebooks, the numbers of the ads. Then they stand up and go to each one and decide what is the missing word in each one.
- 6 Check answers together as a class. Where appropriate show how collocation could change