

A TRIP TO THE FARM

A Writing Lesson for Level 2



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CLASS DESCRIPTION: Level 2

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COMMUNICATIVE OBJECTIVE: Practice writing in past tense, reporting events, learning special vocabulary

AUDIENCE: Friend or Family

TEXT: Postcard

PRE-WRITING ACTIVITIES:

1. Field Trip to a local farm (eg. Riverdale Farm). This is what the students will be writing about.
2. Class discussion. Teacher will lead discussion about field trip based on the following questions:
 - a. What did you like about the farm?
 - b. What was your favourite animal? Why?
 - c. Is there anything you didn't like?
 - d. What are the names of different animals that we saw? (This will also reinforce vocabulary)
3. Teacher will introduce the topic of postcards and talk about the function of postcards. Teacher will then show an overhead of what a postcard could look like. (See attached sample)

DURING WRITING ACTIVITIES:

1. Put students in pairs. Give students about 10 minutes to try and remember the sequence of events from the field trip. (Eg. What animal did they see first? Second? What other interesting things happened?)
2. After brainstorming, students will work on their individual postcards. Students should write in pencil on a normal piece of paper.
3. Students use the checklist to edit their writing. They then exchange rough drafts with their partner and peer-edit.
4. When they are sure the writing is free of errors, students will write their good copy on an actual postcard.

POST-WRITING ACTIVITY:

1. Students who wish to share their postcards may read them to the class.
2. Provide a special area of the class to display the postcards. Of course, students may mail the postcards if they wish!

MODEL POSTCARD:


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Dear Mom and Dad,

This morning I went to the Riverdale Farm with my ESL class. I had fun. First we met the farmer. His name was "Joe". He showed us the cows. Some of my classmates milked them, but I was too nervous. Then, we watched the horses eat. I fed a horse an apple. There were many chickens there. They were very loud and smelled funny! My favourite animals were the rabbits. They were white, furry and very cute! After we visited the farm, we had a picnic in the park. Finally, we returned to school.

I am having fun here but I miss you very much!

Love, *Rosa*



**Maria Gomez
14 Alberto St.
Mexico City
Mexico**

CHECKLIST

THE POSTCARD

YES NO

1. Do you have a salutation?
2. Did you say where you went?
3. Did you say what you did there?
4. Do you have a closing?
5. Did you sign your postcard?

GRAMMAR

YES NO

1. Are all the sentences complete ideas?
2. Is there correct punctuation between complete ideas?
3. Are all the words spelled correctly?
4. Are all the verbs in the correct verb tense?