

3C Storytellers

Vincent A. Desmond

Type of activity

Speaking. Group work.

Aim

To practise using linkers.

Task

To invent and tell a story using linkers.

Preparation

Make one copy of the worksheet for each group of four to five students. Cut up the cards as indicated.

Timing

30 minutes

Procedure

- 1 Elicit different types of book (romance, thriller, science fiction, biography, autobiography, history book, detective story, etc.).
- 2 Divide the class into groups of four to five students and give each group the top section of the worksheet with the word cards removed. Ask the groups to make three new book titles using some of the words, e.g. *Love Ship* (a romance), *Robot Killer* (a science fiction story), etc. Ask the groups to read their titles to the class.
- 3 Ask each group to choose one of their titles. Explain that each group is going to develop this story. Then ask the groups to decide on the first line of their story.
- 4 Place a set of linker cards face down in the middle of each group. Students take it in turns to pick a card and add the next sentence to their story. For example, the first sentence of the story *Love Ship* is: *John and Camilla were sunbathing on the ship.* Student A picks up the card *because* and continues the story: *John decided to get some cocktails because he was thirsty.* Student B picks up a card and adds the next sentence to the story. This continues until all the cards have been used. (Encourage students to make notes about the story as they add each sentence to help them when they retell the stories in stage 5.) Circulate

and monitor, helping with vocabulary as necessary.

- 5 Regroup the students and ask them to tell each other their stories.

Follow up

- 1 Immediately after the activity, it may be useful to conduct an error correction session based on the students' accuracy in using narrative tenses and linkers.
- 2 For homework, ask students to write up their stories or even create a class book of short stories. Consider copying this book and distributing it to other classes or displaying the stories on a noticeboard.

Notes & comments

This activity is designed to practise linkers and the stories the students produce may not sound natural as there will be an unusually high number of linkers. This should be pointed out to the students, especially if they go on to develop and write up their stories for homework.