

Group Newspapers

Levels

Beginning-intermediate

Aims

Develop skill in asking and answering wh-questions in context

Class Time

50-60 minutes

Preparation Time

15-30 minutes

Resources

Any grammar text
Newspaper articles

A newspaper format motivates students to try to reconstruct information in a story by means of wh-questions.

Procedure

1. Write a short paragraph on the board. Format it as a newspaper article.
2. Ask students to list important information provided in the paragraph.
3. As students retell information points, erase them from the story.
4. Ask students wh-questions to elicit the necessary information. Write the questions on the board as they are asked. Have students take turns completing the missing portions of the article, as other students answer the wh-questions.

Caveats and Options

1. Underline the information items. Have students provide wh-questions for these instead of reconstructing the story.
2. Ask wh-questions from the outset and create a story from students' answers.
3. Create several sections of a newspaper on board. Provide different information for different types of articles.
4. Put the story in the present tense. Ask questions in the past tense. Change the story on the board to the past tense as questions are answered.
5. Separate class into groups, giving each a short newspaper article. They create wh-questions to ask of the next group in order to find out the contents of the next group's articles. Students can also create their own stories on this model.

Contributor

6. This exercise can highlight different verb tenses. You can write several stories on large white sheets of paper for reuse.
7. Use an overhead projector if available.

Virginia Martin teaches ESL in the English Department, Bowling Green State University, Ohio, in the United States.