

Practicing Narrative tenses through Drama

Presenter: Annie Morris

Aim:	Students to create mimed scenes as a stimulus for detailed observation and description
Focus:	Narrative tenses and language of sequencing
Level:	2 up
Time:	approximately 1 hour for preparing and presenting scenes and approximately 30 minutes for group writing
Preparation:	copies of instructional worksheets and group writing paper
Materials:	4 worksheets; one for each group (A,B,C,D) Props (optional)
Resources:	Preferably stories with actions that can be mimed. <i>(For the PD I used a story from the Cutting Edge Intermediate Workbook (page 18).</i>

Steps:

1. Model an example scene with the “eyes open eyes closed” mechanism
 - a. Elicit the sentences and write on white board
 - b. Explain that students are going to do the same thing but in groups
 - c. (Optional) write up a new sentence and discuss how you could break it into a couple of actions
2. Place students into 4 groups of 3 – 5
 - a. Explain that everyone will perform a different part of the same story. (Go through any problem vocab here). Each group will be given a couple of sentences. The group has to break these sentences into 2 to 3 actions, which will later be performed with the audience doing “eyes open eyes closed”. They will have 10 - 15 minutes to prepare.
3. Place groups into 4 separate spaces. I usually leave one group in the classroom, take two groups to find two vacant classrooms, and the final group can work near the end of a hallway.
 - a. Monitor their progress. (Good exercise running between groups!)

4. Bring everyone back together.
 - a. Explain that each group will perform one at a time, and the audience must follow the instructions of “eyes open eyes closed” between each action. After each group, everyone will be given a couple of minutes to write down notes about what they saw.
5. After all presentations, groups sit together and write out the parts of the story. You can delegate individual students to write up one part each.
6. Hand out a large piece of paper and pens. The group pieces the actions together in the right order, and writes up the story utilising narrative tenses and language of sequencing.

GROUP A

Context

...And then on Thursday, I took a client out for lunch at that French restaurant in the centre of town. What a disaster!

Instructions

Now your group is going to act the following paragraph in mime.

- Break your paragraph into 2 or 3 actions.
- Some people will be actors.
- One person will be the director.
- The director will say "eyes open, eyes closed" in between each action.

Group A's paragraph

Finally, I ordered the bill. When the bill arrived, I realised that didn't have my credit card. I felt really embarrassed and in the end, my client had to pay.



Later you'll watch other groups. Write down notes in the table below about the other groups' stories.

Group	NOTES
B	
C	
D	

GROUP B

Context

...And then on Thursday, I took a client out for lunch at that French restaurant in the centre of town. What a disaster!

Instructions

Now your group is going to act out the following paragraph.

- Break your paragraph into 2 or 3 actions.
- Some people will be actors.
- One person will be the director.
- The director will say "eyes open, eyes closed" in between each action.

Group B's paragraph

We ordered our meal. We had to wait for thirty minutes before the waiter brought the wine. While the waiter was pouring the wine, he spilt it all over my client.



Later you'll watch other groups. Write down notes in the table below about the other groups' stories.

Group	NOTES
A	
C	
D	

GROUP C

Context

...And then on Thursday, I took a client out for lunch at that French restaurant in the centre of town. What a disaster!

Instructions

Now your group is going to act out the following paragraph.

- Break your paragraph into 2 or 3 actions.
- Some people will be actors.
- One person will be the director.
- The director will say "eyes open, eyes closed" in between each action.

Group C's paragraph

My client was angry and we weren't talking to each other. While we were waiting for the main course, my client's mobile rang. My client turned away from the table and whispered into the phone.



Later you'll watch other groups. Write down notes in the table below about the other groups' stories.

Group	NOTES
A	
B	
D	

GROUP D

Context

...And then on Thursday, I took a client out for lunch at that French restaurant in the centre of town. What a disaster!

Instructions

Now your group is going to act out the following paragraph.

- Break your paragraph into 2 or 3 actions.
- Some people will be actors.
- One person will be the director.
- The director will say "eyes open, eyes closed" in between each action.

Group D's paragraph

We arrived at the restaurant, and the waiter took us to our table. Suddenly they started playing loud music. We moved to a different table.



Later you'll watch other groups. Write down notes in the table below about the other groups' stories.

Group	NOTES
A	
B	
C	