

EAP writing mini-task

Aim: To show the importance of context

Length of activity: 20-30 mins depending on level of class, or set a time limit. Could also be used as a warmer

Level: B1/2 Intermediate upwards

Materials: Short text

Preparation: Photocopy mini-text, one per person

Procedure:

1. Give out text and ask students to read it individually.
2. When they are ready, tell them to give it a 3-word title.
3. Monitor carefully to see what titles are being/have been created. (Make a note of who has given a correct title)
4. When everyone has finished, or the time is up, get feedback on titles and reasons.
5. Leave any 'correct' suggestions until last (hence the careful monitoring) (Usually one, if not two, students in a class will get it!)
6. Ask if there was any difficult vocab
So, what was the problem with giving it a title?
Elicit how important context is – in this EAP context, a topic sentence.

In case you missed it, the answer is: *Doing the washing/laundry / The weekly wash, ...*

Contributed by Ray de Witt, Brighton
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EAP Mini-writing task text

The procedure is actually quite simple. First you arrange things into different groups. Of course, one pile may be sufficient, depending on how much there is to do. If you have to go somewhere else due to lack of facilities that is the next step, otherwise you are pretty well set. It is important not to overdo things. That is, it is better to do too few things at once than too many. In the short run this may not seem important, but complications can easily arise. A mistake can be expensive as well. At first the whole procedure will seem complicated. Soon, however, it will become just another facet of life. It is difficult to see any end to the necessity for this task in the immediate future, but then one never can tell. After the procedure is completed, one arranges the materials into different groups again. Then they can be put into their appropriate places. Eventually they can be used once more, and the whole cycle will then have to be repeated. However, that is a part of life.

(cited in Bransford and Johnson 1972, in Baddeley, A. 1982 *Your memory: A User's Guide*. MacMillan; New York)

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