

Recipe

Students cook up a story with set ingredients.

Level: Intermediate

Time: 45 minutes

Materials: "Ingredient" lists of objects, example story, board, or visual of the rollercoaster diagram

Objectives: Students learn the elements of a story and structure a story around predetermined objects.

1. Motivation/Warm Up

Prepare an example of a short story using at least 7 different items (ingredients). Make sure that the students are listening for the specific items (ingredients) as you read the story out loud to the class.

2. Presentation

Present or remind students about the elements of a story using a rollercoaster diagram.

- In the beginning, characters and setting are described;
- In the middle, characters face a problem or conflict;
- In the end, the story describes how the problem is solved.

3. Practice

Give students a new list of 7 items (ingredients) that they must use in a story they write. For example: a loaf of bread, pair of red flip-flops, a wet carpet, a radio, and a phone call. You may give the class one list or you may give each individual a list of his or her own. Instruct students to use all the ingredients in their story in any way.

4. Produce

If students are slow with the assignment, allow them to finish the story for homework. Otherwise, give the students a new list of ingredients to write a new story for homework.