Jean Farber
Creating Lessons Through the Use of a Text

Looking for a way to create structure within your tutoring sessions?
Using simple texts around which to build your lesson gives you and your student a foundation to build upon.

When you build your lesson around a text you have the opportunity to:
- Pre-teach vocabulary by asking the student a question about the topic of the text
- Develop oral language[1] around that text[2]
- Read and discuss the text together

How can you use test to structure your lesson?
- You as the tutor can read a portion of the text out loud to your student; it's actually good for a student to hear the tutor reading the text
- Ask questions about the text, this can be done orally or in writing
- Create activities from within the text to as a tool for focusing on a grammar or vocabulary based on your student's speech, writing and/or reading

Use the topic in the text to engage your student:
- What do you know about the topic –
- Write down everything the student says about the topic (on the white board or other sharable format)

Your student can see what they have said in English.   Use as the basis for conversation
Allows you to capture vocabulary, ideas, great way to get into a text

If the student needs to work on past tense, use an **authentic text[3]** that includes both past and present verbs. The student will see how the past and present tense are used in the text. For example, You can guide the student to identify all the past tense verb in the text with a simple direction, "let's go find all the past tense verbs in the text." Reading from a text helps students develop an ear for the English language.

---

[1] https://www.brown.edu/academics/education-alliance/teaching-diverse-learners/about/oral-language

[2] https://www.cal.org/adultesl/pdfs/briefs/using-oral-language-skills.pdf

[3] https://www.english.com/blog/authentic-material/#:~:text=Authentic%20material%20is%20any%20material,imaginative%20and%20motivating%20for%20students.

Using text for oral language development, reading comprehension, and grammar can also stimulate some basic writing. If working on past tense, you might ask the student to write something in real time. Watching the student write in real time will give you the opportunity to provide immediate feedback. And remember, your feedback should focus on the grammatical issue you are working on – not all the errors that the student may have made.

Feedback should correct but be positive and encouraging. Feedback is best received and absorbed when it focuses on the <u>one structure</u> that you are teaching within the context of the text. In the example of asking a student to answer a question about the text in writing that requires him or her to use the past tense, feedback should also focus on correcting just the past tense, not all the errors you may have noticed. It's important to note for yourself the other errors that the student may have made and reserve those for future topics in later sessions.

For development of oral language[4]:
- Folk tales for ESL students, great way to tap into American culture[5]
- Compare and contrast on a familiar subject, such as the differences and similarities between Israeli and American cuisine
- News stories (newsinlevels.com)
- Ted Talks
- Youtube
- Mr. Bean videos

Students can talk about what they saw in the video.

---

[4] https://www.english.com/blog/authentic-material/#:~:text=Authentic%20material%20is%20any%20material,imaginative%20and%20motivating%20for%20students.

[5] https://americanliterature.com/author/w-w-jacobs/short-story/the-monkeys-paw