

English as a Second Language

LESSON PLAN:

Planning and Predicting with the Ant and the Grasshopper

TESOL LING 445 ED
for 03-07-02

Catherine Chandler

Level: 3rd -6th grade/intermediate to semi-skilled

Objectives: Practice future tense and planning and strategising language.

Preparation Time: 10 min.

Class Time: 1-2 hr.

Materials: Name tags for all students- half 'Ant', half 'Grasshopper'
(opt. 2 types of "antenna" headpieces, for skit)

Warm-Up: Teach the song "Rufus Rastus etc..." (lyrics attached), by singing the whole song, then singing one line at a time and having ss echo each line.

Introduction: Ask ss. how they will get home from school today, and take three or four answers. Then ask ss. what they plan on doing after school and take some answers.

Now ask if any of them has heard the Aesop's fable of 'the Ant and the Grasshopper', and if they have, if they remember the moral. Tell them you are going to read the story now.

Presentation: Read the Aesop's fable 'The Ant and the Grasshopper' (leave out moral). Ask ss. what they think the moral of the story is now.

Now ask ss., if the Ant was a person in the school, what kinds of things would he be doing. Write answers (verbs or verb phrases) on board: working, studying, saving money.... If the Grasshopper was a student at school, what would he be doing. Write answers as previously: playing, dancing, goofing off...

Practice: Pair ss. off and hand out name tags -one Grasshopper and one Ant per pair. Tell the class that they will be taking the roles of the Ant and the Grasshopper to act out the story between themselves, and that after 7 minutes you will have them switch roles.

Evaluation: Circulate among ss. while they are role playing and evaluate the degree of effort and creativity ss. are putting into their role play, and how well they are supporting each other. After time is up, ask if any pairs would like to perform their role play as a skit for the class. If all of the students are willing to do this then this can be evaluated as well.

Application: Assign as homework a short written dialogue of 'The Ant and the Grasshopper as Modern Characters'. Ask ss. for examples of such character pairs and write them down: The Businessperson and the Hippy, The Nerd and the Cheerleader, the Parent and the Kid...

Resources: The Fables of Aesop, Edited by Joseph Jacobs, Schocken Books, NY, 1966

Rationale: The roles of the Ant and the Grasshopper give the ss. the opportunity to use language of planning and intent, and the future tense.