Activitate la clasă: Freeze the writing, clasele 9-12
Prof. Avram Lucia-Simona
Colegiul Naţional „Gheorghe Şincai”, Baia Mare

TOPIC: ‘*FREEZE THE WRITING’* – writing stories

LEVELS: B1-C1 (grades 9-12)

MAIN SKILLS: writing – stories and narrations; reading and listening.

LANGUAGE and GRAMMAR STRUCTURES: “time words and phrases”; uses of past tenses.

AIMS of the activity:

- To revise and practise the use of past tenses in narrations
- To revise and practise the use of “time words” in narrations
- To describe and narrate past situations and events
- To assess group work

TIME ALLOTED: 50 minutes

MATERIALS: whiteboard, markers, pictures, handouts.

TYPES of INTERACTION: whole-class activity, group work.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY

ACTIVITY 1: WARM UP

AIMS: to familiarise students with the topic of the lesson
CLASS ORGANISATION: whole-class activity, pairs
DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY: **1.** The teacher writes on the board the beginning of a sentence referring to a past event ***'Yesterday morning when I woke up…'*** and invites Ss to talk to their pair and elicit a possible ending for the sentence which is true for themselves. **2.** Students work in pairs and try to come up with original answers. **3.** The teacher asks some pairs to say their sentences aloud to the rest of the class and corrects possible mistakes with tenses or language.
MATERIALS: whiteboard, markers
ESTIMATED TIME: 4-6 minutes

ACTIVITY 2: FREEZE THE WRITING

AIMS: To revise and practise the use of past tenses in narrations, the use of "time words" in narrations and to describe and narrate past situations and events
CLASS ORGANISATION: group work
DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY: **1.** The teacher divides the group into four groups and explains the task to the students. **2.** The teacher displays four different posters and pictures presenting people at different moments of the day. The students have to speculate on the activities they perform and to include their speculations in their writing. **3.** The students are given separate handouts with a beginning sentence for their story: ***"When I woke up that morning, I had no idea about what was going to happen and change my life completely.***" The teacher explains the students that each group has to write their own story using past tenses and suitable "time words". When the teacher says '**START'** they have to start writing until they hear **"FREEZE!"** At this point, the groups stop writing on their paper, switch papers among themselves and wait for the teacher to give them the start again. This time the groups have to read what their colleagues wrote and to continue that story as if it were their own until they hear the teacher saying "**FREEZE**" again. Students transfer their stories and the activity is repeated until they get back the story they began, so as to write its ending. **4.** When all the groups have received their initial story and have finished the last writing section up to the last "**FREEZE**!", the groups choose one representative to read their story aloud to the whole class.
MATERIALS: whiteboard, pictures, markers
ESTIMATED TIME: 35 minutes

ACTIVITY 3: STORY EVALUATION

AIMS: to describe and narrate past events, to assess group work
CLASS ORGANISATION: whole-class activity
DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY: **1.** When students have finished reading the stories, they are asked to evaluate their work: their stories should have included their speculations about the people and the activities in the pictures; the correct use of past tenses and time words. **2.** Students are encouraged to express their critical opinions about their work and the work of their peers and to assess themselves and their product.
MATERIALS: whiteboard
ESTIMATED TIME: 8-10 minutes