

## **Exploiting Authentic Material - An Example Lesson: *The Boy In The Photo***

Most teachers have to follow a course book to satisfy the demands of syllabus and examinations. From time to time, however, it is interesting to bring something into the language class from 'the real world'. For teachers it can be interesting to develop a lesson to suit the level, needs and interests of their pupils. For pupils it can be a motivating learning experience and a welcome break from the pages of the textbook.

The example lesson I have chosen for this newsletter has been tried and tested with school pupils, who said that they found the topic interesting and that they learnt a lot from it. It is a story taken from the news and the components are: a photo, four 'newspaper texts', a 'headline' and lexical collocations. The lesson has several stages but not all need to be used depending on the pupils' level.

**Materials:** set of photos/collocations/texts for jigsaw reading

**Aim:** reading comprehension/ information gap/collocation practice

**Procedure:**

1. Put grid on board

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
first name				
age				
nationality				
hobby				
sport				

2. Put Ss into small groups. Give out one small photo to each group and ask them to complete the profile. Allow a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Put results on board and score each group's effort IN TOTAL. Correct answer: Peter, 14, British, computers, cricket. Groups are allowed one change each to try to improve their score before the winners are declared.
4. Tell Ss that this picture appeared in a national newspaper and ask Ss to think of a possible reason. (the correct answer is that he ran away from home).
5. Show Ss large photograph and allow them a second chance. Discuss aspects of the picture – age, social background, parents' jobs etc.
6. Jigsaw reading exercise using four different versions of the story: give out one card to each s for individual reading and note-taking then take in cards; put Ss together who had same colour stories and allow them a few minutes to consolidate; regroup so that each group consists of four different colours; give out set of questions to each group for completion; check in plenary.

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7. Give out collocation cut-ups and Ss attempt to pair them.
8. Play the headline game: put seven blanks on the board and ask Ss to suggest words that may be in the headline. If correct, put that word in the correct space until Ss complete the headline.

**Pictures:**



**Jigsaw Texts:**

**The Incredible Journey (Jigsaw Text A)**

A boy who ran away from home after a family row has telephoned his parents from Malaysia. Peter Kerry, who is fourteen, is 5' 10" tall and looks younger. Yesterday his mother asked the police to start looking for the schoolboy.

Eighteen months ago, after Peter had run away to Newcastle by coach and Belgium by ferry, his mother hid his passport. This time, on Tuesday, after his parents got angry with him, he took his father's passport and two credit cards and caught a plane from Heathrow to Kuala Lumpur, eight thousand six hundred miles away.

The argument happened because his mother asked him to put back some videos he had watched and to pick up a plate of spaghetti from the living room floor. Peter got even angrier when his older sister said it was his fault.

His father found out about the credit cards when he went to the bank on Thursday and was told that five hundred pounds had been spent. The police later said that it had been used to buy a ticket. An economy-class ticket usually costs around six hundred and fifty pounds but some travel agents offer much cheaper deals.

A check on passenger lists showed Peter flew at six o'clock on Wednesday morning with Malaysian airlines. His bedroom is full of travel brochures and he has said that he wants to be an airline pilot.

### An Exciting Trip (Jigsaw Text B)

A boy who ran away from home after a family argument has telephoned his parents from Malaysia. Peter Kerry, who is fifteen, is 5' 10" and looks older. Yesterday his mother asked the police to start looking for the schoolboy.

Eighteen months ago, after Peter had run away to Edinburgh by train and France by plane, his mother hid his passport. This time, on Tuesday, after his parents got angry with him, he took his father's passport and two credit cards and caught a plane from Gatwick to Kuala Lumpur, six thousand eight hundred miles away.

The argument happened because his mother asked him to put back some videos he had watched and to turn down the hi-fi. Peter got even angrier when his little brother said it was his, Peter's, fault.

His father found out about the credit cards when he went to the bank on Thursday and was told that five thousand pounds had been spent. The police later said that it had been used to buy a ticket. An economy-class ticket usually costs around six hundred and fifty pounds but some travel agents offer much cheaper deals.

A check on passenger lists showed Peter flew at ten o'clock on Tuesday evening with British Airways. His bedroom is full of travel brochures and he has said that he wants to be a travel agent.

### An Expensive Trip (Jigsaw Text C)

A boy who ran away from home after a family argument has telephoned his parents from India. Peter Kerry, who is fourteen, is 5' 10" and looks older. Yesterday his mother asked the police to start looking for the schoolboy.

Eighteen months ago, after Peter had run away to Edinburgh by train and France by plane, his mother hid his passport. This time, on Tuesday, after his mother got angry with him, he took his father's passport and two credit cards and caught a plane from Heathrow to Kuala Lumpur, six thousand eight hundred miles away.

The argument happened because his mother asked him to take some books back to the library and to pick up a plate of spaghetti from the living room floor. Peter got even angrier when his little brother said it was his, Peter's, fault.

His father found out about the credit cards when he went to the bank on Thursday and was told that five hundred pounds had been spent. The police later said that it had been used to buy an airline ticket. An economy-class ticket usually costs around eight hundred and fifty pounds but some travel agents offer much cheaper deals.

A check on passenger lists showed Peter flew at five o'clock on Thursday afternoon with Malaysian Airlines. His bedroom is full of travel brochures and he has said that he wants to be an airline pilot.

### The Traveller (Jigsaw Text D)

A boy who ran away from home after a family argument has telephoned his parents from Kenya. Peter Kerry, who is thirteen, is 5' 10" and looks older. Yesterday his mother asked the police to start looking for the schoolboy.

Eighteen months ago, after Peter had run away to Manchester by bus and Jersey by boat, his mother hid his passport. This time, on Tuesday, after his father got angry with him, he took his father's passport and two credit cards and caught a plane from Luton to Nairobi, ten thousand eight hundred miles away.

The argument happened because his mother asked him to tidy his room and to have a shower. Peter got even angrier when his cousin said it was his fault.

His father found out about the credit cards when he went to the bank on Thursday and was told that fifty pounds had been spent. The police later said that it had been used to buy a ticket. An economy-class ticket usually costs around seven hundred and fifty pounds but some travel agents offer much cheaper deals.

A check on passenger lists showed Peter flew at ten o'clock on Tuesday afternoon with Delta Airlines. His bedroom is full of travel brochures and he has said that he wants to be a spy.

#### Questions:

1. Where is the boy now?
2. How old is he?
3. Where did he run away to before?
4. How did he get there?
5. Who did he argue with?
6. What was the argument about?
7. Who said it was Peter's fault?
8. Which airport did he leave from?
9. How far did he travel?
10. How much did he spend on credit cards?
11. Which capital city did he fly to?
12. How much does a ticket normally cost?
13. What does he want to be when he's older?

#### Questions and Answers:

1. Where is the boy now? - Malaysia
2. How old is he? - 14
3. Where did he run away to before? - Edinburgh and France
4. How did he get there? - By train and by plane
5. Who did he argue with? - His mother
6. What was the argument about? - Putting back some videos and picking a plate of spaghetti from the floor
7. Who said it was Peter's fault? - His little brother
8. Which airport did he leave from? - Heathrow
9. How far did he travel? - 6,800 miles
10. How much did he spend on credit cards? - £500
11. Which capital city did he fly to? - Kuala Lumpur
12. How much does a ticket normally cost? - £650
13. What does he want to be when he's older? - An airline pilot.

**Collocations:**

family	row
data	protection
three-minute	call
immigration	authorities
credit	card
economy	class
travel	brochures
single	ticket
civil	servant
hotel	staff
cheaper	deals
high-profile	security
helpful	people
local	time
border	town
grammar	school
previous	trips
airline	pilot
courier	company
travel	agent
passenger	lists

**The headline:**

**Runaway flies to Malaysia on credit card**

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