

Topics

Children and work, working days, lifestyles

Aims

- To review past tenses
- To listen for specific information
- To retell a story
- To read and compare stories
- To write about a photograph

Age group

14+

Level

A2/ B1

Time

Approximately 40-60 minutes

Materials

1. [Audio file](#)
2. [Image file](#) (Young Market Traders)

Introduction

This activity is designed to encourage students to develop their higher-level critical-thinking skills to speak about images. The activity is part of a package of materials, which includes audio to help students develop their listening skills. The main focus in this lesson is to practice past tenses in the context of the story behind a photo.

Procedure

1.	Show students the photograph and ask them what they think it shows.
2.	<p>Give students a list of expressions from the audio and ask them to guess if these will be habits (the girls' or the photographer's) or things specific to that day. Students write the phrases under the headings.</p> <p>Answers:</p> <p>HABIT</p> <p><i>I was living in Vietnam</i></p> <p><i>I often went on fun motorbike adventures</i></p> <p><i>We didn't usually our plan trips</i></p> <p><i>We improvised our adventures</i></p> <p><i>We decided where we wanted to go when we saw things that looked interesting</i></p> <p>THAT DAY</p> <p><i>It was a Sunday morning</i></p> <p><i>I took this picture early in 2010</i></p> <p><i>None of us can remember exactly where we were</i></p> <p><i>We stopped to take pictures</i></p> <p><i>These two girls came walking past</i></p> <p><i>It was still early in the morning</i></p> <p><i>They'd had a good day</i></p> <p><i>They'd sold everything in their baskets</i></p>
3.	<p>Play the recording. Students listen and check their answers.</p> <p>Play the recording a second time. Ask students to put the phrases in the same order as in the recording.</p>
4.	<p>Working with a partner, students try to rewrite the story as told by the photographer. Allow them to simplify as appropriate. They can use the expressions to help them.</p> <p>When they have finished, put all the stories on a table or on the wall for everyone to read. Students decide which of the stories is most similar to the original. Play the recording again for the class to compare.</p>

5.	<p>Ask students choose a photograph showing a person or people from one of the following sets:</p> <p>Jobs (http://www.flickr.com/photos/eltpics/sets/72157625352999273/)</p> <p>Working Week (http://www.flickr.com/photos/eltpics/sets/72157626507470277/)</p> <p>Tell students to make two lists of activities under the headings HABIT and THAT DAY for the picture they have chosen using their own ideas about the photo.</p> <p>This activity can be done in pairs or small groups.</p>
6.	<p>Using their lists to help them, students write a short story.</p>

Contributors

Activity by: Fiona Mauchline
Photograph by: Victoria Boobyer

Transcript

Victoria

I took this picture early in 2010. I'm not sure but I think it was a Sunday morning – it was certainly very relaxed, so yes, it was probably a Sunday.

I took the photo the Central Highlands of Vietnam – um, that's a region of Vietnam on the border of Laos and Cambodia. I was living in Vietnam at that time and I often went on fun motorbike adventures with some good friends of mine. The strange thing is that none of us, not me or my three friends – none of us can remember exactly where we were on this particular day. Oh well.

We didn't usually plan our trips very much, we wanted them to be quite spontaneous and improvised, so we just knew when our trains left and where our planes took off from. We improvised the rest of our adventures along the way, really, we just, um, decided where we wanted to go when we saw things that looked, you know, looked interesting. No plans, really.

I remember that, on this day, we stopped to take photos at an old, picturesque village that looked nice, um, a typical village for this region - they make great photos and just then these two girls came walking – no, more like striding or marching past us, laughing and full of energy.

It was still early in the morning, but they'd obviously had a good day already, and had sold everything that had been in their baskets. I think you can also see it had been a good morning from the way they were walking happily home.