

AIM

To do a dictation and rearrange sentences into news stories

LANGUAGE

Past Perfect and narrative tenses

SKILLS

Writing and speaking

MATERIALS

One copy of the worksheet cut in half for each pair of students

HOW TO CUSTOMIZE

You can change this worksheet on computer or by hand, using the customizable version.

Here are some ideas:

- Adapt the news stories to more recent ones, or ones that are particularly relevant and interesting to your students.

ANSWERS

Student A

1a 2n 3g 4h 5k 6b 7i 8j

A Polish woman couldn't believe it when her dog came home after being stolen nearly 50 kilometres away. Edyta Kowalska had gone to Warsaw for the day with her dog, Cherry. While they were walking down the road, a car suddenly stopped and three masked men jumped out. After they'd grabbed the dog, they drove off. 'It was terrifying. I thought they were going to attack me,' said Edyta. 'I reported it to the police, but I don't think they took it seriously.' Edyta spent five days looking out for Cherry. Then suddenly she saw the dog coming up the garden path. 'I couldn't believe it. She was a bit thin, but she had got home. That's all that matters.'

Student B

1f 2o 3c 4l 5m 6d 7p 8e

A German grandmother has said she's healthier, wealthier, and happier since giving up cash 15 years ago. Heidemarie Schwermer, a widow, gave up her home in Dortmund in 1996 after her children had left. She left her home because she was feeling disillusioned with the consumer society. She now travels around with just a suitcase, laptop, and mobile phone. 'I can live without money. I can get everything I need by bartering and getting presents,' she said. She has written a book about her lifestyle. After her publishers had offered her a cash payment, she suggested the money went to charity. 'It can make many people happy instead of just one,' she said.

Pre-activity (5 minutes)

- Read out these sentences to the class and ask students to write them down.

She'd gone home two hours earlier.

She was watching TV at home.

Someone suddenly knocked on the door.

- Check what they have written by asking students to come and write the sentences on the board. Focus on the verbs and elicit the names of the tenses (Past Perfect, Past Continuous, and Past Simple). Briefly review the way each tense is used in stories, perhaps helped by drawing a timeline on the board.

Procedure (20 minutes)

- Explain that students are going to do a dictation activity and then reorder the dictated text to form two short news stories.
- Put students into A/B pairs and hand out the relevant half of the worksheet to each student. Pre-teach/check *masked, to grab, garden path, wealthy, widow, disillusioned, consumer society, to barter* (to exchange goods or services for other goods or services without using money), *publisher*.
- Make sure students are positioned so that they can't see each other's worksheet. Briefly review the punctuation marks: *full stop, comma, open quotation mark, close quotation mark, capital (H)*. Also review language students may need during the dictation stage: *Can you repeat that? How do you spell that? Is that double or single (r)? Is that a new sentence?*
- Tell students that the stories are divided across sentences so that a dictated section may end mid-sentence. Demonstrate the activity by getting a Student A to dictate their first section to Student B, who should write the lines in the space provided.
- Students take turns to dictate their lines and write them in the spaces provided. Monitor and help as necessary.
- When they have finished the dictation stage, they can check their wording against their partner's worksheet.
- Ask students to work out the order of the lines to form the two short news stories. Remind students to look carefully at the first and last word of each section, and at the punctuation, to help them make the links. Monitor and help as necessary.
- Ask students to read the stories aloud to make sure they have ordered the lines correctly.

Extension (5 minutes)

- Give students a few moments to think of a possible title for each story. Students compare their ideas and vote for the best title.