Teacher Lesson Plan

Reading Comprehension: Zara's Day on Planet Kepler

Level: A2
Age: 12 years old
Duration: 20 minutes
Class size: Individual/Small group

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Understand and sequence events in a simple narrative
- Identify main ideas and specific details from a text
- Distinguish between present simple and past simple tenses
- Use context clues to understand new vocabulary

Materials Needed

- Student worksheet
- Optional: Pictures of space/aliens for vocabulary pre-teaching
- Timer

Lesson Structure

Warm-up (2 minutes)

Teacher Instructions:

- Ask: "Do you think there are children on other planets? What do you think their day is like?"
- Briefly introduce the character: "Today we'll read about Zara, a 12-year-old girl who lives on planet Kepler."

Pre-reading (3 minutes)

Teacher Instructions:

- Review key vocabulary from the vocabulary box
- Ask students to predict: "What do you think Zara does every day?"
- Set the purpose: "We're going to read about Zara's normal day and a special day yesterday."

Reading (3 minutes)

Teacher Instructions:

- Have students read silently first

- Optional: Read aloud together on second reading

- Encourage students to underline any difficult words

Activity 1: Sequencing Events (5 minutes)

Teacher Instructions:

- Explain: "Look only at what happened yesterday (past tense verbs)"

- Monitor and provide hints if needed

- Check answers together

Answer Key:

1. Zara woke up late at 8:30 AM

2. Zara ran to school with a space sandwich

3. Zara visited the Crystal Gardens with her class

4. Zara played with her brother Pip in the garden

5. Zara's family watched a movie about Earth

6. Zara went to bed happy and tired

Activity 2: True or False (4 minutes)

Teacher Instructions:

- Remind students to look back at the text

- For false answers, ask students to correct the statement

Answer Key:

1. F (lives on planet Kepler)

2. T

3. F (alarm clock broke)

4. T

5. F (small spaceship)

6. T

7. F (moon cereal)

8. T

Activity 3: Grammar Focus (3 minutes)

Teacher Instructions:

- Point out the difference: "Part A is about every day (present simple), Part B is about yesterday (past simple)"
- Remind students about irregular verbs (wake-woke, run-ran, take-took)

Answer Key: Part A: 1. wakes, 2. brushes, 3. eats, 4. walks **Part B:** 1. woke, 2. didn't have, 3. ran, 4. took

---

Teaching Tips

Vocabulary Support:

- **Pre-teach:** sonic toothbrush, spaceship, Crystal Gardens
- **Cognates:** family, student, photos, camera
- **Context clues:** Students can guess "purple milk" and "moon cereal" from context

Grammar Notes:

- **Present simple:** Focus on 3rd person -s endings (wakes, brushes, eats)
- **Past simple:** Mix of regular (-ed) and irregular verbs
- **Negative past:** Highlight "didn't have" structure

Differentiation:

- **Stronger students:** Ask them to find all present simple vs past simple verbs in the text
- **Weaker students:** Allow them to work in pairs or provide the first answer as an example

Common Errors to Watch For:

- Students might confuse "every day" activities with "yesterday" activities
- Past tense irregular verbs (woke, ran, took)
- Present simple 3rd person -s endings

Extension Activities (if time allows)

- **Discussion:** "How is Zara's life similar/different to yours?"
- **Creative writing:** "Write about what you do every day vs what you did yesterday"
- **Vocabulary practice:** Students draw pictures of the "alien" items (sonic toothbrush, spaceship, etc.)

Assessment Notes

Monitor for:

- Ability to distinguish between present and past events

- Understanding of main story elements

- Correct use of present simple vs past simple

- Reading comprehension accuracy

Success indicators:

- Student can sequence events correctly

- Student identifies at least 6/8 true/false correctly

- Student completes grammar exercise with 70%+ accuracy

Homework/Follow-up

- Ask students to write 3 sentences about their normal day (present simple) and 3 sentences about yesterday (past simple)

- Vocabulary review: Create sentences using 5 words from the vocabulary box