

LESSON 2

Extended Reading Fluency Practices

EXERCISE 1. Nonprose: Class Schedule

Here is a schedule for the students at the English Language Institute at the University of North Florida. There are three levels: beginning, intermediate, and advanced. Read the schedule and then answer the questions on the next page.

	B1	B2	I1	I2	I3	I4	A1	A2	A3
8:00–8:50	Lab	Gram Jones #102	Gram Lee #103	tutor	Comp Adel #104	Conv Hurt #105	Idioms Scots #106	Read Jenks #107	Gram Gowen #108
9:00–9:50	Voc Conti #101	Conv Lee #108	Voc Turner #107	Gram Adel #105	tutor	Comp Piaf #104	Gram Jones #103	Idioms Scots #102	TOEFL Hurt #106
10:00–10:50	Read Piaf #105	tutor	Read Adel #106	Voc Hurt #102	Gram Jones #101	Read Conti #103	Comp Turner #104	Gram Scots #107	Disc Lee #108
11:00–11:50	Gram Jones #101	Lab	Conv Hurt #103	Read Conti #102	lunch	lunch	Disc Lee #104	lunch	lunch
12:00–12:50	lunch	lunch	lunch	lunch	Voc Lee #105	Gram Turner #106	lunch	Disc Adel #107	Read Piaf #108
1:00–1:50	Conv Adel #101	Voc Hurt #102	Comp Conti #103	Conv Jenks #104	Read Turner #105	tutor	Read Piaf #107	TOEFL Jones #106	Comp Scots #108
2:00–2:50	tutor	Read Turner #102	tutor	Comp Conti #103	Conv Piaf #104	Voc Scots #105	TOEFL Jenks #106	Comp Yee #107	Idioms Masten #108

Key: B: beginning, I: intermediate, A: advanced

Lab: Language Laboratory, Gram: grammar, Comp: composition, Conv: conversation,

Read: reading, Disc: discussion, TOEFL: Test of English as a Foreign Language, Voc: vocabulary

Language laboratory has a native speaker who helps students in the laboratory.

Tutors are native speakers who work with small groups of three to four students at a time.

Notes: Tutor groups will meet at the main office for the first class meeting. The tutor will choose a meeting place for future meetings.

All lab classes will meet in the language laboratory.

EXERCISE 5. Reading/Discussion/Writing: Smoking at Work

Part 1. Read this letter from a person who has a problem with a coworker. Then work with a classmate to discuss your answers to the questions after the letter.

Dear Advisor,

I've got a problem with one of my coworkers and I just don't know what to do. I work at a large company. In the office where I work, there are four people who share the office area. Of course we each have our own desk, telephone, etc., but we share the same air and that is the problem.

One of my coworkers smokes in the office. The company has a rule against this, but my coworker doesn't think this is a fair rule so she doesn't pay any attention to the rule. I've tried to hint that the smoke in the office bothers me, but I have never told her directly that her smoking in the office bothers me. I'm not making any progress with this strategy.

I've talked to my other two coworkers. Neither of them smokes, but the smoke in the office air does not bother them. They don't care if anyone smokes in the office or not.

I'm concerned about my health. I hear more and more news that "secondhand" smoke is unhealthy. I don't like the fact that my hair and my clothes stink of cigarette smoke when I leave the office every day.

What should I do?

Chris

Part 2. Discuss your answers to these questions with a classmate.

1. What is Chris's problem?
2. Do you think that Chris has a real problem? Why or why not?
3. Have you ever experienced this problem before? Where and when?
4. What do you think Chris should do?

Part 3. Now read these responses from four different people. Which response do you think is the best? Why? Which one is the worst? Why do you think this?

Answer 1

Dear Chris,

I'm a smoker, and I'm tired of you nonsmokers trying to run our lives. If we smokers want to smoke, it's our right. Who are you to tell us not to smoke? I don't tell you what to do in your life, so what gives you the right to tell me what to do? This is crazy.

Leave your coworker alone! Don't bother her with this silly issue. It sounds to me that everyone in the office is getting along fine—except for you! Perhaps you are the problem, not your coworkers!

Think about it, Chris!

Rachel

Answer 2

Dear Chris,

What are you waiting for? Talk to your coworker about this problem. Tell her that she has to stop smoking in the office. It's the rule in most companies. Everyone has to follow the rules.

Of course smoking is bad for you. I hate that cigarette smoke smell in my clothes, too.

Good luck with this situation.

Pamela

Answer 3

Dear Chris,

Talk to your boss. If there is a rule in your company against smoking in a common area, then your boss should take care of the situation. It's not your job to do this. Let someone higher up take care of this problem.

I hope you get some clean air soon!

Zina

Answer 4

Dear Chris,

Forget it. If you talk to your coworker, nothing will change. She knows the rule now but smokes anyway. If you talk to her, she'll get angry.

If you talk to your boss, he will think you are a troublemaker. You can't win in this situation.

Life is not fair, is it?

Carrine

Part 4. For homework, write your own reply letter to Chris. Follow the four examples in part 3. Write your own opinion. Try to limit your answer to 125 words. Be sure to say EXACTLY what you think Chris should do. Be sure to give reasons why Chris should follow your suggestion.

At the next class, pass around your papers so that everyone gets to read everyone else's letters.

Questions for Exercise 1

1. Where do lab classes meet? _____
2. What time do beginning students eat lunch? _____
3. How many different classes of students are there at this school? _____
4. What does Mr. Hurt teach at eight o'clock? _____
5. What does Mrs. Adel teach at one o'clock? _____
6. In what room does group A1 have discussion class? _____
7. Do classes B2 and I3 have lunch together? _____
8. Who teaches TOEFL to class A2? _____
9. My friend is in class I4. What is my friend's first class every day? _____
10. Another friend has discussion class after lunch. What class is he in? _____

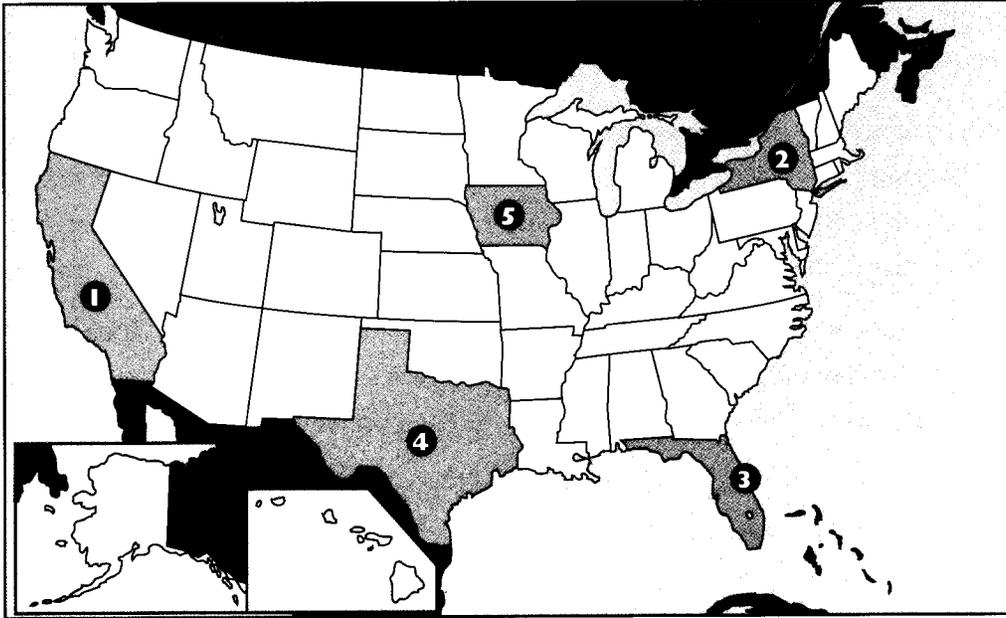
Now write five original questions of your own. With a partner, take turns asking and answering each other's original questions.

11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____

STRATEGY 2: *Capital Letters*

Pay attention to capital letters. There are two general uses for capital letters in English. Capital letters are used at the beginning of every sentence. In addition, we use capital letters for names of people, places, and some things. Examples are George Smith, Vancouver, and IBM.

EXERCISE 2. Nonfiction: U.S. Map



Part 1. Prereading. Look at the map and try to answer these questions.

1. This is a map of _____.
2. State number 4 is _____.
3. State number 2 is _____.
4. Florida is state number _____.
5. Have you ever heard the name “Iowa” before?

Which state do you think is Iowa? number _____

Do you know anything about the state of Iowa?

Part 2. Look at the map at the top of this page. The reading on pages 24–25 is about this map. Read this information. Write one of these words on the lines:

Houston, not, name, quickly, state

On the map of the United States above, five states have been shaded. These states are numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

State number 1 is in the southwest corner of the United States. This state is California. California is a large state. California has many people. California is now the biggest state in population. There are about 30 million people who live in California. The population of California is growing very _____.

State number 2 is in the northeast corner of the map. This state is New York. Many people know New York City. New York City is a large and important city in the state of New York. Both the city and the state have the same _____. There are about 18 million people in the state of New York.

State number 3 is in the southeast corner of the United States. This _____ is Florida. Florida is a very well-known state. It is famous because the weather is warm. It is also famous because many international tourists visit Disney World and other places in Florida. There are about 13 million people who live in this state.

State number 4 is a very large state, but it is not the biggest state. State number 4 is Texas. Texas is located in the south central part of the United States. The largest cities in Texas are Dallas and _____. The population of Texas is about 17 million.

State number 5 is in an area of the United States that we call the midwest. (Mid here means middle.) State number 5 is Iowa. Iowa is _____ a very big state. The population of Iowa is not very big either. There are about 3 million people in Iowa. Iowa has many farms that give us food. Corn is an important product of Iowa.

Part 3. Outline of the reading. Fill in the missing numbers and words to complete the outline for the reading. Use the words below. (Use one word twice.)

Texas	northeast	south central	3 million
population	30	Florida	southeast
Iowa	midwest	17 million	location

I. California IV. _____

A. Location: southwest A. Location: _____

B. Population: _____ million B. Population: _____

II. New York V. _____

A. Location: _____ A. _____: _____

B. Population: 18 million B. _____: _____

II. _____

A. Location: _____

B. _____: 13 million

EXERCISE 3. Fiction

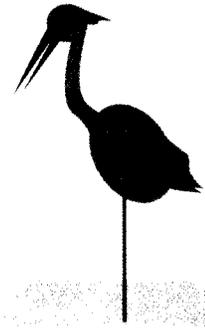
Part 1. A folktale is a story that people in an area have told and told and told over many years. This folktale is from Japan. It is about a crane, a kind of bird, that helps a man. Read the folktale and answer the questions.

A Crane's Payment for a Man's Kindness (583 words)

Once upon a time there was an old man who lived in a small village. This man was very poor. His name was Ohyo. He had a very simple life, but he was very happy.

Question: Do you know this story already?

One beautiful day he was walking in the mountains. Suddenly he heard a sound. It was a very sad sound. He found a crane that was caught in a trap. It couldn't get out. Ohyo felt sorry for the bird, so he helped the crane. He got the crane out of the trap. The crane was hurt, so Ohyo put some medicine on the crane's injury to make it better.



crane

Question: What do you think will happen next? Will the crane die?

A few days later, a beautiful woman came to Ohyo's door. "I'm sorry to bother you," she said, "but I don't have any place to stay and it is very late."

When Ohyo saw the woman, it was love at first sight. "You can stay here in my house," he answered. Ohyo loved the woman so much that they got married. They were very happy together, but life was difficult for them because they didn't have any money.

One day the woman made some beautiful cloth for Ohyo. She said, "This cloth will sell for a very high price. I have made this to help you."

Question: What do you think the cloth was made of?

Ohyo took the cloth to the market to sell it. He was very surprised when he was able to get a lot of money for the cloth. He asked his wife to make some more cloth. At first, she was reluctant to do this. Then Ohyo talked to her about this for a long time. "Please, please, please make some more cloth for me," he asked. Finally she agreed to do this for him. However, she said there was one very important special condition.

“I will make more cloth for you,” said his wife, “but you must promise me one simple thing.”

“Yes, anything,” said Ohyo.

“Whatever happens, you must never look at me while I am making the cloth. Never. Do you understand this?” she asked. “Can you promise this?”

Question: Do you think this condition is strange?

Ohyo quickly agreed. He was so happy that she was going to make more cloth, and her promise was such a simple one.

Question: Why do you think Ohyo agreed to this condition so quickly?

Everything was fine. Ohyo was happy because his wife continued to make more cloth. He sold the cloth for a lot of money in the marketplace. Life was good.

Question: What do you think will happen next?

Ohyo wanted to see how his wife could make such beautiful cloth. He remembered his promise not to look at his wife when she was making the cloth. One day, however, Ohyo could not stop himself. The door to the room where his wife was working was open a little. He walked to the door very quietly. He looked inside the room. He was so surprised.

He did not see his wife making the cloth. He was surprised because he saw the crane that he had helped several months before. The crane was making the beautiful cloth from its beautiful feathers.

Question: Who was making the cloth? Where was his wife?

The crane heard the door move. The crane saw Ohyo. “I am the crane that you helped. When I was in trouble, you helped me. I wanted to pay you back for your kindness, so I made this beautiful cloth for you. However, now you know who I am, so I cannot stay here any longer.”

In that moment, the crane flew out the window. Ohyo was in the room crying “Please don’t leave. Please don’t go. I’m sorry.”

It was too late. The crane was already gone.

Question: Does this story have a happy ending?

Part 2. Sometimes a folktale has a moral. A moral means a kind of teaching. The story can teach us something important about life.

What is the moral of this story? _____

Discuss your answer in small groups.

Part 3. Summary Practice. Read this summary of the folktale. The folktale has 583 words, but this summary has only 185 words. Some of the words are missing. Fill in the blanks with a correct word.

Summary of “A Crane’s Payment for a Man’s Kindness”

“A Crane’s Payment for a Man’s Kindness” is a folktale from Japan. In this story, a poor man named Ohyo (1)_____ a crane in the mountains one day. The crane was hurt, and (2)_____ helped the crane. A few days later, a beautiful woman came to Ohyo’s (3)_____ looking for a place to stay. Ohyo fell in love with (4)_____ at once. Soon they were married. They had a good life, but (5)_____ did not have much money. The wife decided to help their (6)_____ by making a very special cloth that Ohyo sold in the (7)_____ for a large amount of money. The wife agreed to make this (8)_____ if Ohyo promised not to look at her when she was making it. Everything was OK, but one (9)_____ Ohyo looked at his wife while she was making the special cloth. However, he did not see his (10)_____. He saw the crane that he had helped before. The crane (11)_____ that she had to leave because Ohyo had looked at her when she was making the cloth. Ohyo was very (12)_____ to lose his beautiful wife.

EXERCISE 4. News Reports: True or False?

Read these three news stories. Two of them are false and one of them is true. Circle true or false. Then answer the question at the end of this exercise.

1. true or false? Americans Want a King

In the United States, there is a president, but in England there is a queen and in Spain there is a king. *Newsweek* magazine asked 400 Americans this question: Should the United States have a president as now, or should the United States have a king or a queen? The answers were very surprising. About 45% said we should have a president. The really surprising point of this survey was that about 40% wanted to have a king or a queen. About 15% said that we should only have a queen. Although these numbers are important, no one really believes that the U.S. government will change the system in the near future.

2. true or false? Chimpanzee Speaks English

At a science laboratory near San Francisco, California, scientists have found out something very important. They have trained a chimpanzee named Jo-Jo to speak. Jo-Jo, age 3, can actually say about seven expressions in English. These expressions include: "I'm sorry," "Where are you going?" and "I'm hungry." In the past, other chimpanzees were able to communicate using pictures, sign language, or computers, but this is the first time that anyone has been able to train a chimpanzee to speak with human beings.

3. true or false? A Dangerous Sport

Can you name a sport that is dangerous? Perhaps your answer is football. Maybe you said boxing. Perhaps you said skiing. What about Ping-Pong? Not many people would say that Ping-Pong is a dangerous sport. However, according to a government report in 1992, over 1,450 people had to go to the emergency room at a hospital after they played Ping-Pong. That's right—Ping-Pong!

