



# Tutor tips: Teaching Adult ESL Learners

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## The Language Experience Approach (LEA)

The language experience approach (LEA) uses learner experiences as the basis for lesson content. The following is an example of a modified LEA lesson that could be used with ESL students:

1. A shared experience, such as a field trip, a common situation, or a meaningful picture is a stimulus for class discussion.
2. Learners volunteer sentences about the experience and the teacher writes the sentences for the learner.
3. The teacher reads each sentence aloud, running his or her finger under each word as it is pronounced, verifying that he or she has written what the student has said.
4. When the story is completed, the teacher reads it aloud.
5. Learners are encouraged to join in a second and third reading of the story.
6. A number of activities can follow at this point:

- **Choral cloze:** The teacher erases some words, reads the story, and asks learners to supply the missing words.

- **Writing cloze:** The teacher types the story, leaving out every fifth word. During the next class the teacher passes out the cloze and asks learners to fill in missing words.

- **Scrambled sentences:** The teacher types the story. During the next class the teacher distributes copies of the story to the class. Each learner cuts the story into strips so that there is one sentence on each strip of paper. Learners scramble the sentences and rearrange them in the proper sequence.

- **Scrambled words:** More advanced learners can cut sentences into words, scramble the words, and rearrange them in order.

### Words of the

#### Month:

“Heteronyms”

Words that are spelled identically but have different meanings

Bass  
Bow  
Conduct  
Content  
Dove  
House  
Lead  
Moderate  
Perfect  
Permit  
Present  
Produce  
Project  
Record  
Resume  
Separate  
Tear

### Writing Prompts:

- What is your favorite store, and what do you love to buy there?
- Describe a memorable birthday celebration.
- What global issues concern you?
- Talk about five specific goals you want to accomplish this year, and explain how you are going to accomplish them.

# Spring

## Level 2.0



### Pre-Reading:

What do you know about spring?

### Definitions:

- Awake - to wake from sleep
- Appear - to come into view; to be seen
- Sprout - to start to grow

Sue loves spring. It is a season of new life. Nature awakes from its long winter sleep. New grass appears. New leaves bud on trees. The air smells fresh and new. Sue loves to hear the chirping of the birds. They have returned from their winter homes. Some are busy building new homes. Look up in the trees. You may spot a nest! Sue enjoys looking for new flowers that sprout in her garden. Tulips are some of the first to push their way out of the ground. The spring rains help the earth come alive. The April showers bring May flowers. Sue loves the new hours of spring daylight. The nights get shorter. The days grow longer. Warmer weather arrives. Sue sheds her heavy coat. She packs away her winter gloves and scarves. A new smile comes across her face. She is ready for warmer spring days.

### Comprehension:

1. What is a nest? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What are some signs of spring? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What sound does Sue love to hear in spring? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Which month has spring rains? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What does the word shed mean in this story?
  - a. A small building used to store things.
  - b. To take off.
  - c. To let something flow out.

# Environmental Health

## Level 5.0



### Pre-reading Questions:

What is this reading about?

What questions do you have about the subject?

### Definitions:

- Environment – the place where you are, both inside and outside
- Pests – insects and animals that can live in or around one's environment
- Pollution – chemicals, garbage, dirt and dust that can be in the air, water or land
- Litter – bits of paper, trash or garbage

You are in an environment right now. It is anywhere you are. Your home, place of work, and classroom where you study are all environments. Is your environment healthy? Pollution can be found anywhere. Pollution is bad for your health. Garbage, dust, dirt and mold are bad for your health. They can all cause sickness and allergies. They can also attract pests. There are two good ways to keep your environment healthy. First, keep it clean. Second, don't pollute. Clean your home every week. Get the whole family involved. Assign each person a task. Keep your kitchen and bathrooms clean. Mold and germs can form very easily in those two rooms. Keep food off the floor and sweep often. Wash dirty dishes daily. Wear rubber gloves when using cleaning products. Some products contain chemicals. Keep cleaning products away from children. Many products are poisonous. Find a high, safe place to store cleaning products. Help keep your children's school or a nearby park clean. Recycle cans, bottles and paper. Pick up trash and ask others to do the same. Don't litter. Make sure to throw your own trash in garbage cans. Children are always watching and learning from their parents and other adults. We need to model good environmental health.

### Comprehension:

1. What would an unhealthy environment look like?
2. What would a healthy environment look like?
3. Where is mold most likely to grow in a home? How could mold be kept out of a home?
4. Where should cleaning products be stored? Why?
5. How can parents involve their children in good environment health?
6. What does the word model mean in this reading?

**Writing:** Write about your home, school or work environment. Is it healthy? Why or why not?