

BIOGRAPHIES: Using past time clauses and connectors; drafting

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| TIME: | 40 – 50 minutes |
| INTERACTION: | Whole class / pair work / individual |
| AIMS: | To practice using past time clauses and connectors and writing first and second drafts. |
| TEXT TYPE: | Article |
| REGISTER: | Semiformal |
| WRITING SKILLS: | Using connectors and past time clauses, organizing ideas into paragraphs, drafting |
| PREPARATION: | Find pictures of famous people, e.g. from magazines (optional). Read through the text in exercise 1 and check the meaning of any unknown vocabulary. Make one copy of the worksheet for each student. |

PROCEDURE

Warm up!

- If you have collected some pictures, show them to the class. Ask who the people are and what the students know about their lives.
- Ask the class to suggest the names of famous people. Write the names of one man and one woman on the board and elicit “key facts” about their lives.

EXERCISE 1

- Tell the students to read the text quickly and match the paragraphs with the headings.

ANSWERS:

4 conclusion 3 personal life 1 introduction 2 career

- Ask them if they can suggest a good title for the piece.

EXERCISE 2

- Tell the students to read the text more carefully, then allow time for them to discuss the “key facts.”

SUGGESTED ANSWERS:

39 when he died; born in 1929; grew up in Atlanta; son and grandson of Baptist ministers; very able student; studied theology; married Coretta Scott in 1953; four children; passionate about civil rights; inspiring public speaker; natural leader of protests against racism; 1963 he made his famous “I have a dream” speech in Washington; youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize; In 1968 ... was assassinated by James Earl Ray; in 1986, the third Monday in January was declared a national holiday in the U.S.A., to be known as “Martin Luther King Day.”

EXERCISE 3

- Elicit two or three more examples of linking words, then allow time for the students to circle the linking words. Discuss their answers with the class. Use the model answer on page 59.

EXERCISE 4

- Ask the students what they already know about Princess Diana.
- If they want to choose a different person, allow time for them to make notes. (They may choose to use the notes on the board, see the “warm up” above.)
- Encourage them to think of a title that is suitable for a popular magazine (i.e. not too formal).

EXERCISE 5

- Explain that they can rearrange the order of the notes as they wish.
- Remind them that the first paragraph should be a general introduction and the fourth paragraph should provide a summary or conclusion. Paragraphs 2 and 3 should each have a “theme.”
- Monitor their work. Remind them just to write notes at this stage. Encourage them to introduce some of their own opinions into the introductions and conclusion.
- Encourage the students to form groups with other pairs and discuss each other's ideas.

EXERCISE 6

- Suggest that the students look back to exercise 3.
- Allow time for the students to work on their first drafts. Monitor their work.
- Stop them after ten minutes and ask for volunteers to write their sentences on the board. Invite comments and suggestions.

EXERCISE 7

- Ask the students to write a second draft for homework and illustrate it if they wish.

GRADING CHECKLIST FOR FLUENCY TASK

Check that:

- there is a title.
- there is an introductory paragraph.
- there are two paragraphs, each with a “theme.”
- there is a concluding paragraph.
- the important facts are all included.
- “connectors” and past time clauses have been used effectively.
- the style is suitable for a magazine article.

BIOGRAPHIES

EXERCISE 1

Look at the text about Martin Luther King (below) and match the paragraphs with the headings.

_ conclusion _ personal life ! introduction _ career

EXERCISE 2

Read the text again and underline the "key facts."

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Title | |
| paragraph 1 | Although Martin Luther King was only 39 when he died, he is one of the most famous figures in the history of the U.S.A. |
| paragraph 2 | He was born in 1929 and he grew up in Atlanta, the son and grandson of Baptist ministers. King was a very able student and as a result he graduated from high school two years early. He then studied theology at several universities. King married Coretta Scott in 1953, and the couple had four children. |
| paragraph 3 | King grew increasingly passionate about civil rights. He was an inspiring public speaker, too, and so became a natural leader of protests against racism. In 1963 he made his famous "I have a dream" speech in Washington, and a year later he was the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. In 1968, King was assassinated by James Earl Ray. He was making a speech about equality at the time. |
| paragraph 4 | In 1986, the third Monday in January was declared a national holiday in the U.S.A., to be known as "Martin Luther King Day." He was an American hero who will never be forgotten. |

EXERCISE 3

Look at the text again. Circle words that link ideas and events.

e.g.: Although Martin Luther King was only 39 when he died, he is
 He was born in 1929 and he grew up in ...



EXERCISE 4

Look at the notes about Princess Diana OR make notes about another famous person. Think of a title for an article about him/her.

Princess Diana

- born Sandringham, England 1961 – family friendly with royal family
- parents divorced 1969
- not a good student, loved sports (wanted to be a dancer, but too tall)
- left school, 1978, became a waitress, a cleaner, then a teacher at school for young children
- romance with Prince Charles (son of Queen Elizabeth II) began 1980 – followed everywhere by the press
- married Charles 1981 – watched by 750 million people worldwide
- had two sons (William and Harry)
- beautiful and popular – supported many charities
- became unhappy and sick, attempted suicide
- 1992 separated from Charles, divorced 1996
- killed with billionaire businessman Dodi Fayed in car crash, Paris, 1997 (while being chased by reporters)

EXERCISE 5

Organize the notes into four paragraphs.

EXERCISE 6

Use your notes to write a first draft for a magazine article. Use some of the words in the box to link ideas and events.

after although as a result because eventually
 finally however in spite of later so
 then when while

EXERCISE 7

Write a second draft of your article. Include pictures if you want to.