

Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue

3.4 Expanding a sentence

Level Lower-intermediate to advanced

Time 10–15 minutes for each worksheet.

Aims To give the students an opportunity to start writing creatively within a safe, controlled frame.

Materials One copy for each student of the Worksheet + Example answers.

Preparation

Prepare and make copies of a worksheet. An example is provided below, but you may find it more useful to write your own, or use sentences drawn from your coursebook or created by you or your students.

Procedure

3.4

- 1 Give out copies of the worksheet and the Example answers and ask the students to notice the expansion of the original sentences on the answer sheets. Explain, if necessary, that there are three kinds of expansion in the examples: sequences of action, restatements (the same or similar in other words), and inserted comments.
- 2 Ask your students to expand these sentences in a similar way:
 - He picked up his hat.
 - The sky is deep blue.
 - Not really.
 - D'you think you possibly could?
 - The light faded.
 - Yeah, I really feel cold.
 - Cut up the tomatoes.
 - The tree is not what you think.
- 3 Group the students in sixes to compare their work. Ask each group to put two or three of their best sentences up on the board.

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Worksheet

- 1 He got up.
- 2 He leaned over.
- 3 He smiled.
- 4 He was a writer.
- 5 We went to a restaurant in Greek Street.

Example answers

- 1 He got up.
He got up, yawned, and stretched.
He got up, opened the curtains, and looked out across the bay.
- 2 He leaned over.
He leaned over, clutched his side, and fell dead on the floor.
He leaned over, picked up the book, and threw it on the fire.
- 3 He smiled.
He smiled, or tried to smile, or started to smile but thought better of it.
- 4 He was a writer.
He was a writer, a scribbler, a pen-pusher.
He was a writer, a man of words, not a man of deeds.
He was, or had been, or is said to have been, a writer.
- 5 We went to a restaurant in Greek Street.
We went to a restaurant, a small place, just four tables, in Greek Street.

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