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A Likely Story



an hour	a model	the jackpot
a gift	the dark	an earthquake
the strength	a dollar	the sheriff
the moon	an accident	the police
an alligator	the Atlantic Ocean	a few days later
on the right	the most romantic	an adventure
the piano	a fortune	an excellent idea
in the morning	a gun	a bully
a good time	the Times	the man
an egg	the bag	a kiss
the Ritz Hotel	a black cat	the money
the best thing	the sun	a car

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In this compelling teaching activity, groups of students create a story using phrase cards that contain articles (a, an, the).

Before class, make one copy of the cards for each group of three.

Procedure

Divide the class into groups of three and give each group a set of cards.

Tell the students that they are going to create a story using as many of the phrases on the cards as possible. Explain that all the phrases contain an article (a, an, or the).

Ask the students to decide on the type of story they want to make. Elicit story genres from the students and write them on the board, e.g. crime, horror, love, science fiction, etc.

When each group has decided on a genre, tell the students to choose one student in their group to do the writing.

The groups then decide which phrases to use and create a story.

Remind the students that they must use the exact phrase on the cards, including the same article. They will also sometimes need to use the same noun with a different article, e.g. One day a man was walking out of the Ritz Hotel when he saw a black cat. The man had an excellent idea...

Monitor and help as necessary.

When the students have finished their story, each group pairs up with another group and reads their story to them.

The two groups give feedback to each other and help with any grammatical errors, paying close attention to the use of articles.

Afterwards, groups take it in turns to read their story to the class. When all the stories have been read out, the class votes for the best one.