

Experience Stories

**A Strategy for Reading and Writing Practice
for Low-Level Learners**

Agenda

- What is the Language Experience Approach (LEA)?
- Why should I use it? What are the benefits?
- How does it work? What is the process?
- An example of LEA in action.
- Extension activities using student stories.
- Story starter ideas.

What is the Language Experience Approach (LEA)?

- The central principle of the Language Experience Approach is to use a student's own vocabulary, language patterns, and experiences to create reading texts to make reading an especially meaningful and enjoyable process.
- It is an approach to reading instruction based on activities and stories developed from personal experiences of the learner.

What are Some Benefits of this Strategy?

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- LEA brings together writing, reading, and speaking and helps learners understand that what they think and say can be written.
- **LEA provides reading material that is predictable and readable because it uses the learner's natural language.**

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- We show students that their personal experiences and life skills are valuable and interesting.
- **We put students in the center of the learning activity.**

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- 4. Use words from the student's story to generate word study activities.**

From LITSTART Handbook

LEA in Action



Questions/Comments?



Extension Activities

- **In the video, the tutor used words from the story in several follow-up activities.**
- **What do you remember about these extension exercises?**

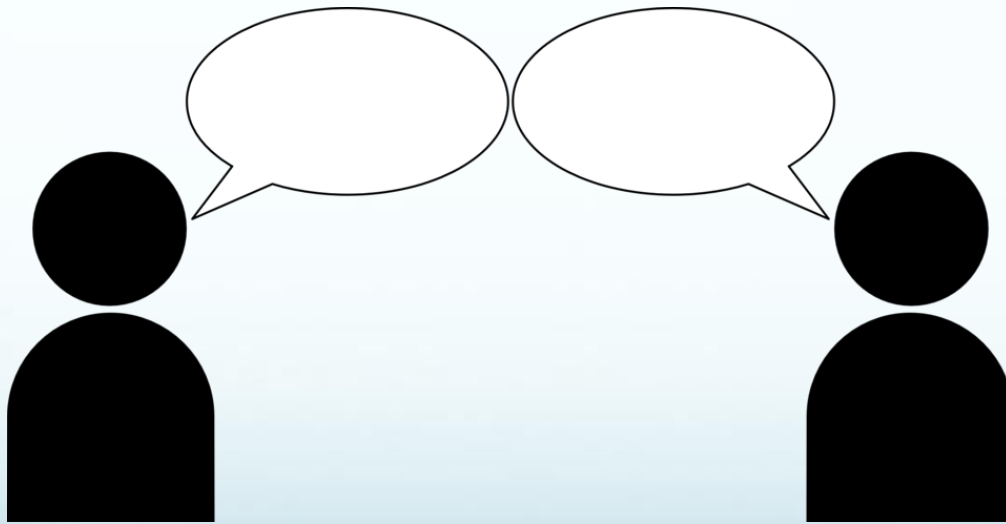
Beautiful

Extension Activities

- **Identify and make flash cards with focus/sight words from the story.**
- **Match flash cards to words in the story.**
- **Make a list of opposites. For example, beautiful/ugly.**
- **Phonics. The tutor used “s” and asked the student to find other words in the story that began with the same sound.**

Extension Activities

- **With a partner, discuss and jot down your ideas for how you could use a student's story as the basis for other word study activities.**



Extension Activities

- **Identify words that have the same short/long vowel or begin with the same sound.**
- **Make a list of words that rhyme with one of the words from the story.**
- **Type the story and then cut it into strips. Have the student put the story in order.**
- **Type the story but inset blanks where the focus words should be. Have the student use the flash cards to complete the text. (Cloze or fill-in the blank exercise.)**

Story Starters

- **With a partner, discuss and jot down some ideas for experiences or topics that your student might want to make a story about.**

Story Starter Ideas

- Family members
- Pets
- Shopping
- Favorite foods/cooking
- Favorite season
- Sports
- Job
- Chores around the house
- Hobbies or leisure time
- Housing / neighbors
- Experiences:
 - Look at displays in the Jefferson School
 - Coffee at McDonalds
 - Staples / CVS
 - Downtown Mall
 - Library

Final Questions/Comments



A word cloud featuring the phrase "thank you" in numerous languages and scripts. The words are arranged in a roughly rectangular shape, with "thank you" in large blue letters as the central focus. Other prominent words include "gracias" (red), "danke" (yellow), "merci" (blue), and "arigatō" (green). The word cloud includes words from languages such as German, Japanese, Indonesian, Tagalog, Korean, and many others. The background is white with a light blue gradient at the bottom.

Languages and words included in the word cloud:

- German: danke, bedankt, dankie
- Japanese: 謝謝 (shukriya)
- Indonesian: terima kasih, ngiyabonga, thank you
- Tagalog: salamat, tapadh leat
- Korean: 감사합니다
- Spanish: gracias, gracias
- Portuguese: obrigado
- Polish: dziękuję
- French: merci, arigatō
- Italian: grazie
- Hebrew: תודה (toda)
- Russian: спасибо (spasibo)
- Arabic: شكر (shukriya)
- Swahili: asante
- Sinhala: ආචාර්ය (acharya)
- Tamil: நன்றி (nandri)
- Urdu: شکریہ (shukriya)
- Bengali: ধন্যবাদ (dhanbad)
- Malayalam: നന്ദി (nandhi)
- Marathi: धन्यवाद (dhanbad)
- Hindi: धन्यवाद (dhanbad)
- Thai: ขอขอบคุณ (khor-khuen)
- Vietnamese: cảm ơn (cam-on)
- Khmer: ក្រាស់ (kras)
- Indonesian: terima kasih, ngiyabonga, thank you
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