

Spice it up!

# Innovative Activities for your Class

IX Seminar for English Teaching Professionals

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# Innovative Activities for your Class

## WORKSHOP:

Designing Authentic Tasks for Young  
Learners: Enhancing Writing and  
Speaking in the Primary Classroom



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# What is an authentic material?



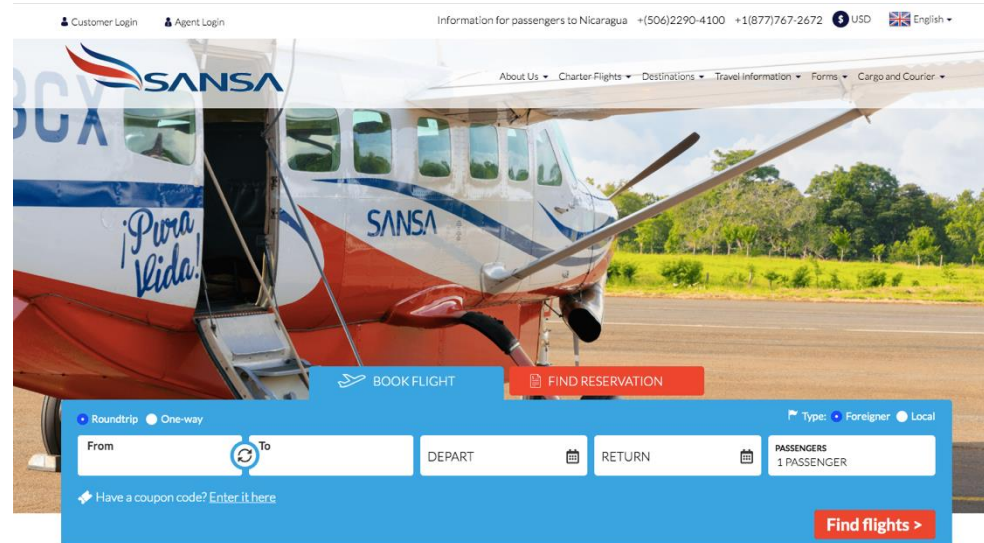
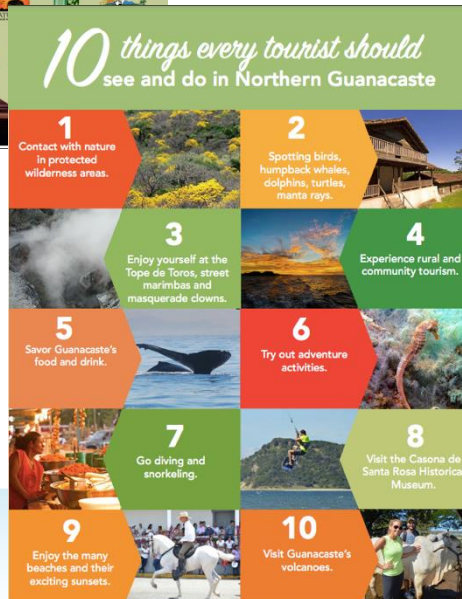
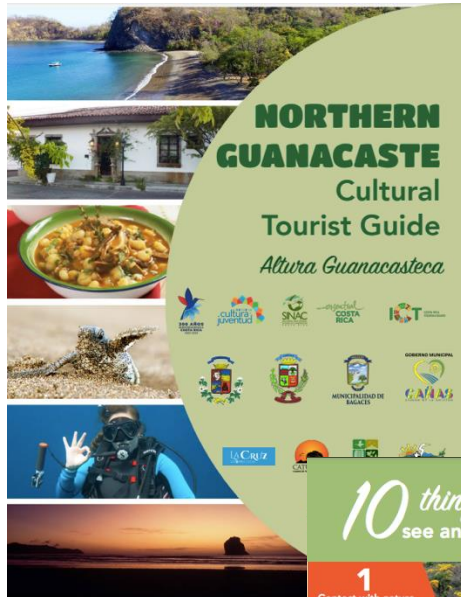


# Definition

*“Authentic material is any material written in English that was not created for intentional use in the English classroom (Zazulak, 2023)”.*



# Authentic Materials



# Are these authentic materials?

1



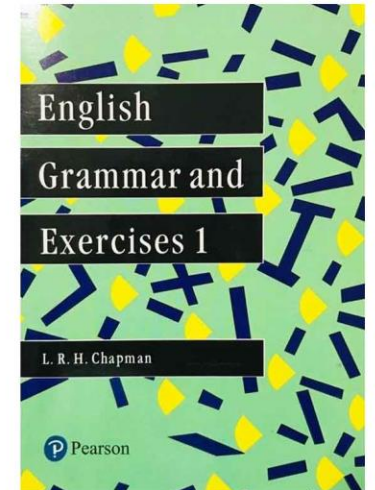
2



3



4





# Brain Spark!



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# Brain Spark!

Echo Words





# Using Music

- Music is a powerful tool for inspiring writing, as it evokes strong emotions and vivid ideas.



# Tasks Using Music

- 1. Painting with Sound
- 2. Soundtrack Stories
- 3. Where the Music Takes You
- 4. A Story in Every Song



# 1. Painting with Sound

- What is the composer describing?
- What is happening as you listen to the music?
- What animal / feeling is the music describing?





## 2. Soundtrack Stories

- Listen to the song and write the opening scenes of the movie.
- Write the story behind the music.
- Select the tense as appropriate.



### 3. Where the Music Takes You

- Describe the place where the song takes you.
- Where is that place?
- What's the space like?
- Is it indoors or outdoors?
- What's in that place?



## 4. A Story in Every Song

- Dictate the first line of a story.
- Students continue the story when the music starts.
- “Everybody was asleep. The kid opened the door and...”





# Using Pictures

- Pictures can spark the imagination and lead to rich written work as they transport students to different worlds.



# Tasks Using Pictures

- 1. Suspect Parade
- 2. Holiday Highlights
- 3. The Story Behind the Eyes
- 4. Moments in Motion



# 1. Suspect Parade

1. Provide context.
2. Write the description of ONE of them.
3. Read / identify which picture is being described.



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# Suspect Parade



## 2. Holiday Highlights

1. Give Ss holiday pictures.
2. Ss choose one and write a post about “their holidays”.





## 2. Holiday Highlights





### 3. The Story Behind the Eyes

- 1. Create a journal entry as if you were the person in the portrait.
- 2. Post a comment under the portrait (museum's online exhibit).
- 3. Write a blog: imagine their life story.
- 4. Record a podcast monologue: If you had one chance to ask the person in the painting about their life, what would you say?"



### 3. The Story Behind the Eyes



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## 4. Moments in Motion

- 1. Show Ss dramatic pictures and ask them to write:  
What happened next?

What happened next?

- 2. Ss role-play a short conversation that could have taken place in the picture's scenario.





## 4. Moments in Motion



# Workshop in Motion!



## Instructions

1. Each group will be assigned the following:

- A piece of authentic material
- A primary school grade level

2. Plan a teaching activity using one of the ideas previously discussed and the unit assigned.

3. Try to integrate both writing and speaking skills.

4. Provide clear, specific instructions for your activity.

5. Be ready to share your activity with the whole group.



# Ideas in Action!

- Group 1
- Level: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Material:





# Ideas in Action!

- Group 2
- Level: Fifth Grade
- Material:



# Ideas in Action!

- Group 3
- Level: 3rd Grade
- Material:



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# Ideas in Action!

- Group 4
- Level: 3rd Grade
- Material:





# Ideas in Action!

- Group 5
- Level: 3rd Grade
- Material:



# Teacher's Toolbox: What We're Taking Home

- Music is a universal language with well-documented benefits for learning.
- Always use music purposefully and in context.
- Instrumental tracks are most effective for writing tasks.
- Limit the duration and frequency of music use to maintain its impact.



# Teacher's Toolbox: What We're Taking Home

- Choose pictures with a clear purpose.
- Encourage interpretation and personal response.
- Use pictures to support both speaking and writing.
- Provide clear prompts or scaffolds.
- Be mindful of cultural sensitivity.





# Works Cited

Harmer, J. (2004). *How to Teach Writing*. Essex: Pearson Education. Reid, J. (2000).

Zazulak, S. (2023). *Using authentic material from the real world to teach English*. Pearson. Retrieved July 30, 2025, from <https://www.pearson.com/languages/community/blogs/2023/02/using-real-world-materials-to-teach-english.html>



# Bonus Materials Hub



- Scan this QR code to access the presentation and additional materials we've prepared for your future classes.





# Questions and Answers



Thanks for joining and bringing  
your spark.

The best classrooms start with  
teachers like you!

