TEACHERS NOTES

Language Learning Focus

Language function reporting incidents and narrating stories about the past

Sentence structures

Simple past tense
- I went, I looked, I pointed
- I didn’t go, I didn’t look, I didn’t point

Past continuous tense
- What were you doing? I was reading a book.

Vocabulary
- verbs: drove jumped crashed fell broke thought, etc.
- emotions: upset

Page 1 includes a story and some translation work – the stories can be used in a number of ways depending on the age and level of the learners. I usually start by looking at some pictures to ensure they understand the key vocabulary. Then I read the story, acting it out, miming different actions, etc. After reading the story learners are asked if they can read and translate key words from the story into their first language. Even if no one else shares their language this is a very valuable exercise – it helps to cement the meanings of words.

Page 2 has three sets of questions on it:
1. 6 to 8 yes/no questions
2. 3 or 4 "Have you ever…?" Questions
3. 8 – 10 "Wh…" questions.

As with all Racing to English exercises, putting learners in small groups of two or three to ask each other the questions orally before writing them is a very valuable exercise.

Page 3 has a variety of exercises some very simple such as the word search and the drawing others much more difficult such as the suggestions for learners to write their own stories or for them to write extra details into the story. Direct learners to those exercises that are appropriate to their level.

The sequencing activity is designed to be done in 2s or 3s, as interaction is an important part of language learning. It can also be used as a game. You need a set of the story cards for each player. Shuffle all the sets of cards together and place them in a pile, face down. The players take it in turn to take a card. As they collect the cards, players sequence them to make the story. If a player takes a card that s/he has already collected s/he should put it at the bottom of the pile. The first person to collect all the cards and complete the story is the winner.
Read the story with your friend.

When I was 10 years old, I lived in Vietnam. I had a motor scooter.

One day I was riding my scooter. My little brother was on the back of the scooter.

When we got back home, I couldn't stop the scooter. I drove through the front door into the living room.

I jumped off and the scooter crashed, but my little brother was still on the scooter. The scooter fell on him and it broke his leg. My brother cried and my father took him to hospital. The doctor put a plaster on his leg.

I felt very upset that I had hurt my brother and I thought my father would hit me, but he didn't. He said, 'Don't bring your scooter into the house again.'

Can you read these words?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>motor scooter</th>
<th>riding</th>
<th>brother</th>
<th>broke</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>back</td>
<td>couldn't</td>
<td>drove</td>
<td>leg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>front door</td>
<td>living room</td>
<td>jumped off</td>
<td>plaster</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Can you translate the words into another language?
Ask your friend some questions:

1. Did Trung have a motor scooter?
2. Did his brother have a motor scooter?
3. Did his brother ride on the back of the scooter?
4. Did Trung drive into the living room?
5. Did his brother jump off the scooter?
6. Did the scooter fall on to his brother?
7. Did the scooter break his brother's leg?

   Yes   No

8. Have you ever sat on a motor scooter?
9. Have you ever hurt your brother or sister?
10. Have you ever fallen off something?
11. Have you ever broken your arm or leg?
12. Have you ever been upset?

   Yes I have.   No I haven't.

Please use long answers for the next questions:
13. Where did Trung live?
14. How old was he?
15. What did he have?
16. Who sat on the back?
17. Why did Trung drive through the front door?
18. Who jumped off the scooter?
19. Why was Trung upset?
20. What did the doctor put on Trung's brother's leg?

Now write the questions and the answers.
Upset by scooter accident
by Trung

Find the words in the wordsearch:

brother  drove  s b r o t h e r  j p
scooter  broke  c r m o t o r u u l
back  door  o i f d b d r p m a
couldn't  room  o d r r r o o s p s
leg  fell  t i o o o o o o e e t
hit  upset  e n n v k r m t d e
off  jumped  r g t e e f e l l r
riding  plaster  c o u l d n' t o f f
motor  b a c k l e g h i t
front

Write 7 questions about the story. Write questions that you do NOT know the answer to.
For example

Who gave the motor scooter to Trung?
Why didn't Trung’s father hit him?

Now rewrite the story but make it longer so that it has got the answers to your questions in it.
Upset by a scooter accident
by Trung

I felt upset I had hurt my brother. I thought my father would hit me, but he didn't. He said, 'Don't bring your scooter into the house again.'

My little brother was on the back of the scooter. When we got back home, I couldn't stop the scooter.