



The Fox and the Crow

BOOKR Class Activity Tips

Run time: 4 minutes

Topic: people, nature

Writer: Aesop

Vocabulary: sly, shy, branch, crow, beautiful, shiny, feather, tricky, beak, smell, fox, beautiful, proud, cheese, tree

Illustration: Ágnes Bertóthy

Narration: Scott Alexander Young

Grammar Structures: past simple

Ages: 8-12

Focus of the games: grouping the sentences, gap filling task with the past tense form of the verbs, labelling the parts of the crow

Language level: Beginner

Description: The oldest, most well-known European author, Aesop, still has a significant role in the literary heritage thanks to his fables. During the centuries they have been rephrased, retold, and passed on through generations and nations all around Europe. In this tale the learners can learn a valuable lesson about flattery through the story of the sly fox and the proud crow.



CLASS

Activity Tips

Global comprehension check

#language skills #cognitive skills

Put the paragraphs into the correct order. The activity enables students to analyse the text, its cohesion and coherence, as well. Print the transcript of the story and cut it up into stripes, distribute it to your students one by one or in pairs and ask them to put together the story by reading it out loud. (If you're teaching online, copy and paste the parts to the students.)

Detailed comprehension check

#language skills #cognitive skills

Listen to the book and decide if the statements are true or false. The activity necessitates concentration on details and a thorough understanding of the story and scene set. If necessary, before listening to the story, let the students read the statements.

1. The crow sat in the middle of the tree. F (He sat at the top of it.)
2. First, the fox saw the cheese. F (He smelled the cheese.)
3. The fox first talked about the body of the crow. T
4. The crow thought he had a beautiful voice. F (He was shy because he didn't think he had a nice voice.)
5. The crow dropped the whole wheel of cheese. T
6. The fox waved to the crow as he left. T



CLASS

Summary

#language skills

Give a summary of the story with your own words. The activity is based on the students' ability to find the most important information of the story, gives feedback on how well they got the gist of it and also a possibility to practice the present simple or past simple tense. Here, you can use other well-known fables from Aesop, and turn the summaries into a quiz. Ask your students to tell the summary of a fable without mentioning the characters and let the rest of the group find out the title. If preparation is needed, assign the following books from BOOKR Class based on their difficulty: "The ant and the cricket", "The tortoise and the hare", "The fox and the stork" or "The lion and the mouse".

Roleplay

#personal skills #language skills

Work in pairs and act out the dialogue of the fox and the crow. The activity relies on the communicative situation and the understanding of the moral of the story. Besides practicing the vocabulary and simple structures in the present tense, students need to express themselves, their motifs and their emotions through the language and intonation. Even if it is written down, reading out loud in the appropriate manner can be fun.

Teaching simple past

#grammar

To teach the verb forms of the simple past tense, hand out the following list to your students and ask them to find the past form of the verbs. The following verbs are grouped based on their form, so if this is your first lesson, you might prefer to use only the first column.

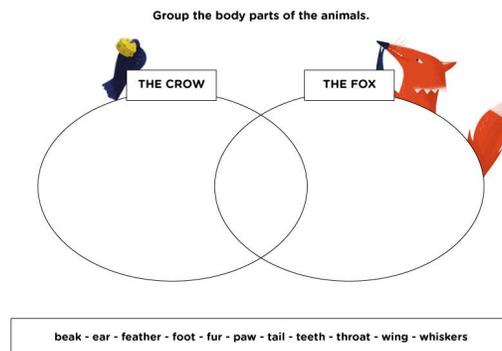
Read the story and find the simple past form of the following verbs.

regular verbs	regular verbs with special spelling	irregular verbs
smell follow walk start bow listen want open work trick ask	realise drop like lie	steal fly sit have see say be think fall eat get

Grouping

#vocabulary #cognitive skills

With the help of the story, students can get familiar with the body parts of the crow. The following activity is designed to practice that target vocabulary and to teach the body part of the fox. Ask the students to use the worksheet and complete the diagram by using the given words.



(the printable is attached at the end of the document)

Inner qualities

#language skills

This activity teaches about the inner characteristics of people. This is not only a vocabulary building activity but a reading comprehension check as well.

Furthermore, it provides an opportunity to talk about good and bad qualities, describe themselves or other characters from Aesop's fables, or the changes of the personality and self improvement.

Read the story and find the adjectives that fill in the gaps.

- 1) The fox wasn't He lied to the crow. (honest)
- 2) The fox said that the crow was He had no mistakes. (perfect)
- 3) The crow was He didn't want to show his voice. He felt uncomfortable. (shy)
- 4) The fox was He was very clever and he had a great idea. (sly, smart)
- 5) The fox was ... of himself. He thought that he was the best. (proud)
- 6) The crow was He felt bad and he wasn't happy at all. (sad)

In stronger classes you can encourage students to come up with the opposite of the adjectives, as well.

1. honest - dishonest
2. perfect - imperfect
3. shy - confident
4. smart - silly
5. proud - ashamed
6. sad - pleased

“Another solution”

#language skills

Ask your students to imagine new ways of getting the cheese. They should provide the fox with several different solutions to trick the crow. Ask for short presentations, even with a flow chart and vote for the best!

“Crying crow”

#language skills #personal skills

Ask your students what they would say if they were in the place of the crow. Imagine an encounter with the owl. What would the crow say about the incident? You can distribute different voices / roles to the students to guide them:

- a. angry with the fox
- b. angry with himself
- c. sad about losing the cheese
- d. sad about being silly
- e. happy because of helping the hungry fox
- f. happy because of his beautiful body

The Fox and the Crow

1

Once upon a time a hungry crow stole a nice round wheel of cheese. He flew to the top of an old tree and sat on a branch.

2

A hungry fox was walking around in the forest when he smelled something delicious. He followed his nose to find the food, and realized that the crow had some cheese in his mouth.

3

He saw the crow sitting high up on a branch eating his yummy cheese. He had an idea: "I can't climb this tree, so I need to trick the crow to get his yummy cheese."

4

He walked over to the tree and started to say very nice things to the crow: "I have to be honest Crow. You are the most beautiful bird I have ever seen."

5

"I love your black feathers and strong beak. Your legs are nice and long." The fox bowed to the fox and said: "You should be the king of the birds!"

6

The fox was very happy, because his idea was working. "If I say nice things to the crow, I can get his cheese," he said silently to himself.

7

The crow listened to the fox happily. He thought to himself: "I really am beautiful. I will open my wings to show the fox my shiny black feathers."

8

"You are perfect," said the fox. "I'm sure you have the most beautiful voice of all of the birds. Is it more beautiful than your feathers? Could you sing for me, please?"

9

The crow was a bit shy because he didn't have a nice voice. However he really wanted to show the fox that he was perfect so he opened his beak to sing.

10

As he opened his beak to sing, the cheese fell out and dropped into the fox's mouth. He ate all of the yummy cheese really quickly with a big smile on his face.

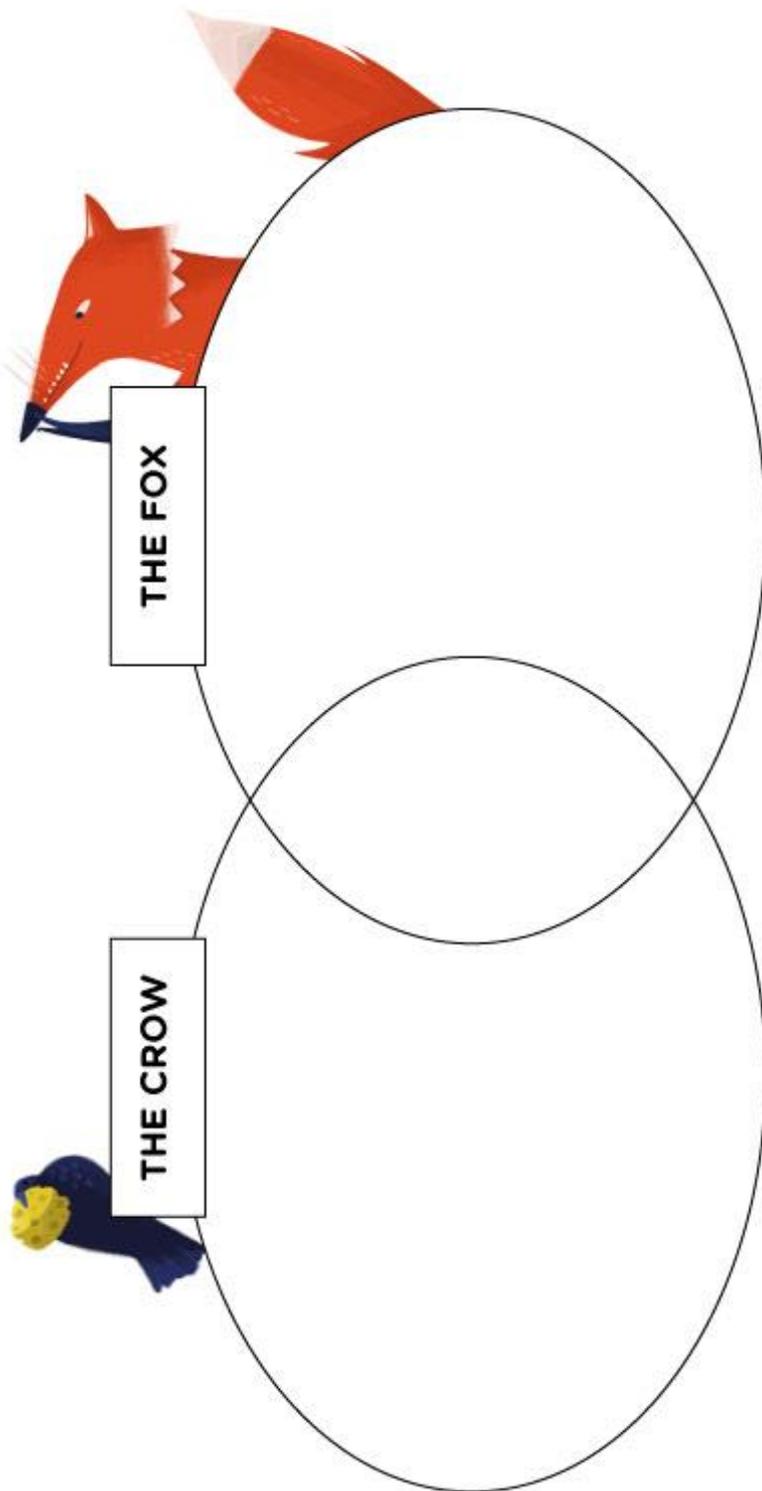
11

"My idea worked, I tricked the crow and got his cheese. I am so smart," thought the proud fox. He was truly as sly as a fox.

12

"Why did you trick me?" asked the crow sadly. "I thought you liked me." "I was really hungry, so I lied to you to get the cheese." said the fox with a grin. "You shouldn't believe everything others tell you."

Group the body parts of the animals.



beak - ear - feather - foot - fur - paw - tail - teeth - throat - wing - whiskers