



كليات التقنية العليا  
HIGHER COLLEGES OF TECHNOLOGY

# You Write and Your Students Read

## A Win-Win for Time-Strapped Writers

**BJORN CANDEL – FUJAIRAH MEN'S COLLEGE**



# Who

is this session for?



# Are you a writer?

Definition of *writer* in English:

**writer** 



## NOUN

- 1 A person who has written something or who writes in a particular way.

*'the writer of the letter'*

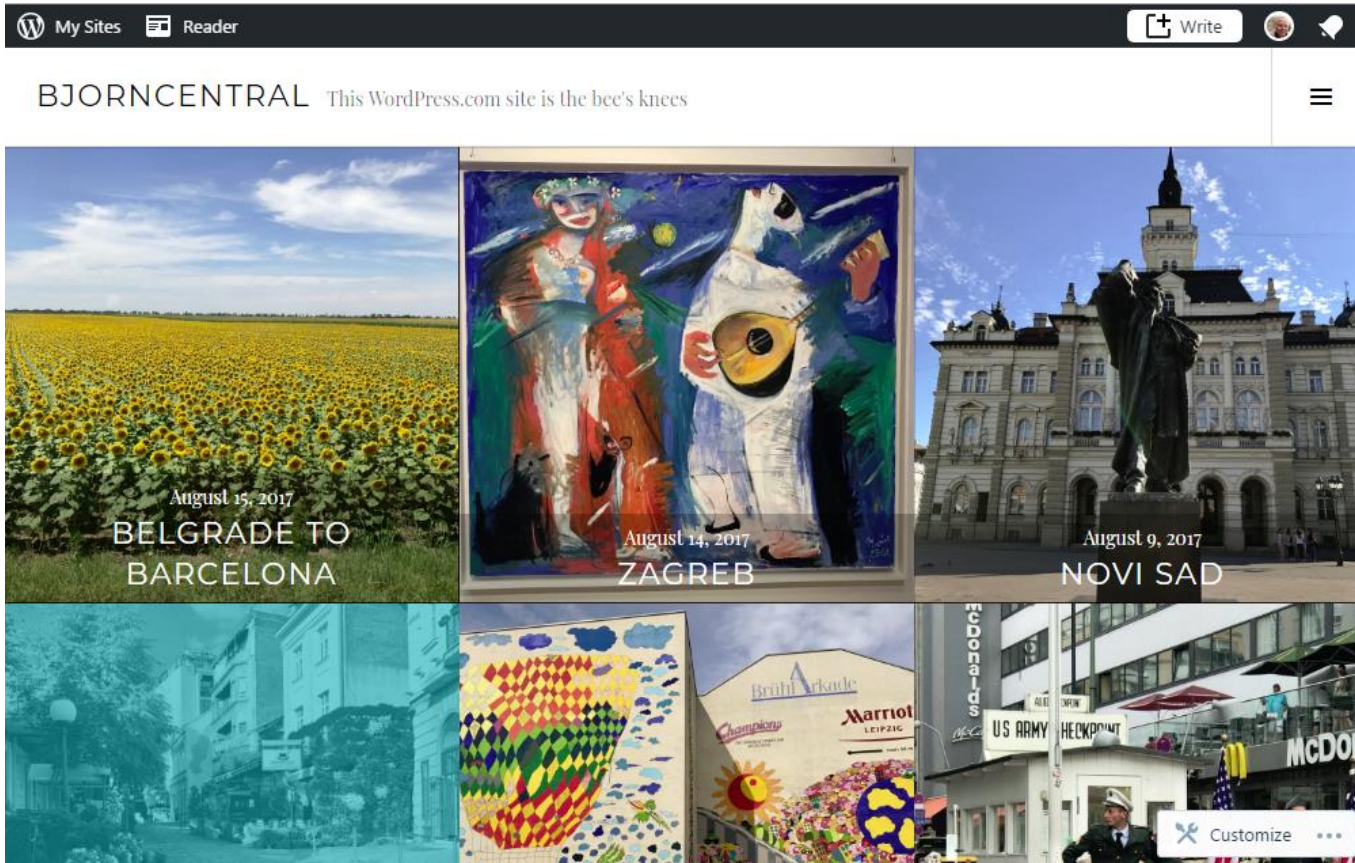
- 1.1 A person who writes books, stories, or articles as a job or occupation.

*'Dickens was a prolific writer'*

*'a writer of short stories'*



# I'm not a writer but I do write



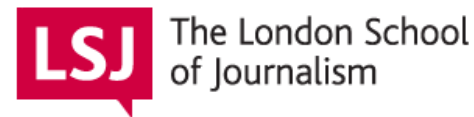
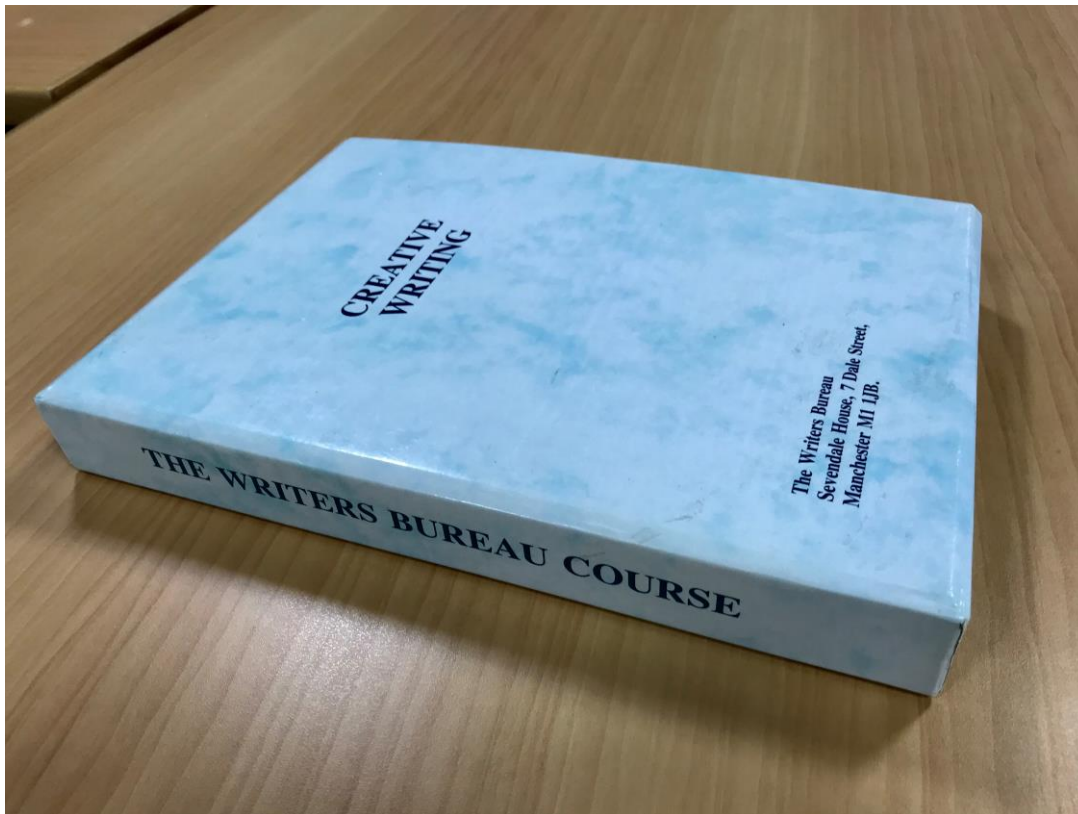
# Blogging since 2001

<https://bjorncentral.wordpress.com/>



<http://bjorn.xanga.com/>

# Two uncompleted writing courses



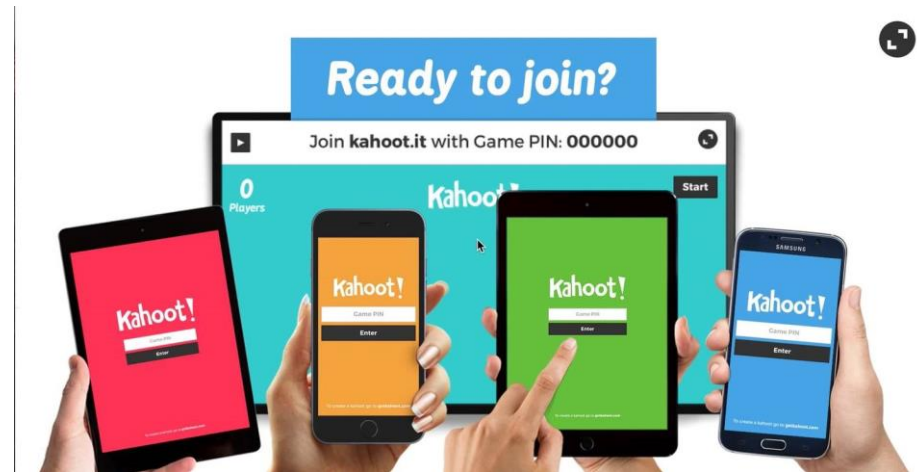
Home	Distance Learning	Postgraduate Courses	Summer School	<b>Day &amp; Evening Courses</b>	Essay Archive
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What people say	<h3>Creative Writing</h3> <p>A course that covers the main techniques of writing utilising a blend of workshops, class discussion and teaching. Designed for both novice and intermediate writers of fiction, the techniques and practices discussed will be common to both short story and novel writing.</p>
Our Tutors	
What about jobs?	
Application Form	
Contact Us	

# Kahoot

I've got a short survey on Kahoot about writing in general, and writing reading texts for language learners in particular.

Please go to: [www.kahoot.it](http://www.kahoot.it)





# Why

write your own readings texts?





## My main reason

- I never seem to have enough good reading texts!
  - There's plenty of grammar, vocabulary and listening practice out there
  - Interesting & well-targeted texts (vocab and grammar) are difficult to find

## Why is this?

- The written text in a course book is usually the centerpiece for a unit

## My second reason

- Our vocabulary syllabus and course book reading texts are not in sync

## Four issues solved by writing your own reading texts

- I control the reading level, vocabulary and grammar in each text
- I use my time more productively than when searching for the perfect text online (which often time consuming and frustrating and seldom results in what you want exactly)
- Creating spin-off activities for grammar, vocabulary, speaking and writing is usually quick, which makes the time spent writing a good time investment

## Five lessons for the price of one! 😊

- And you get a chance to channel your own writing ambitions and creativity during working hours!

# How

to go about writing your own  
reading texts



## Writing Tips

- Don't worry about being a good writer, just write!
  - <https://goinswriter.com/writing-tips/>
- Write about what you know

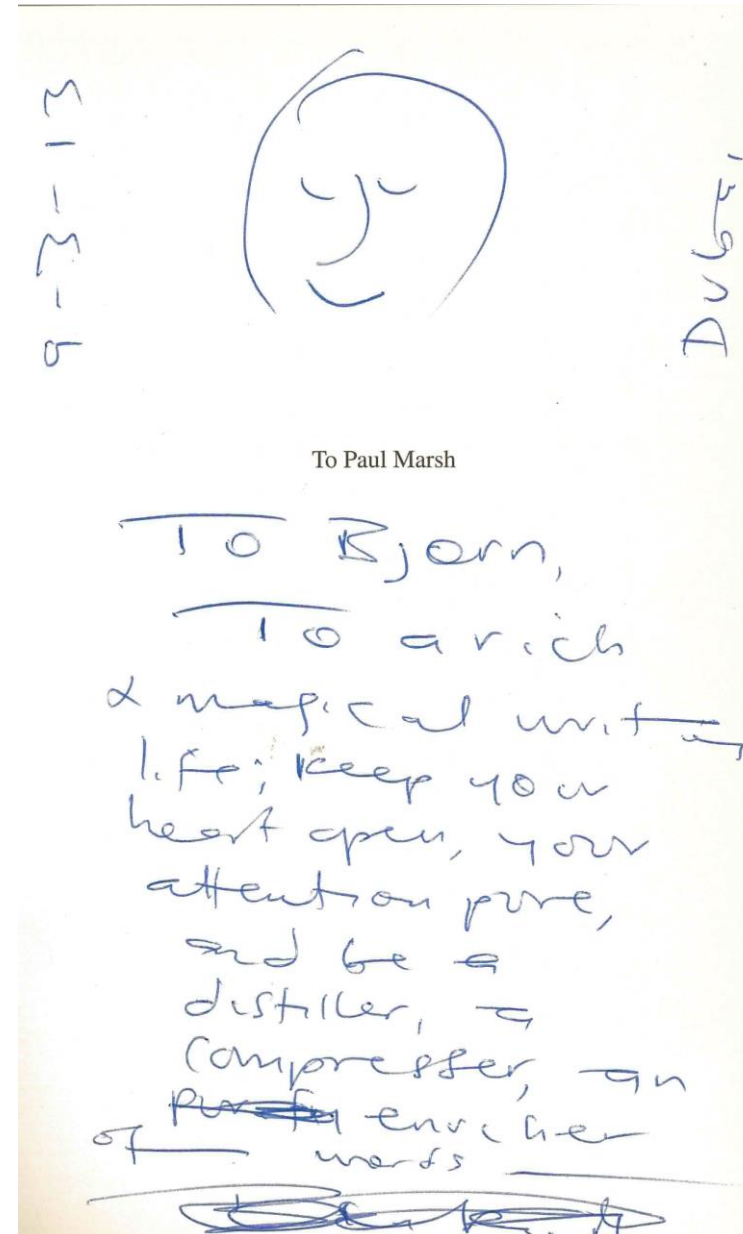
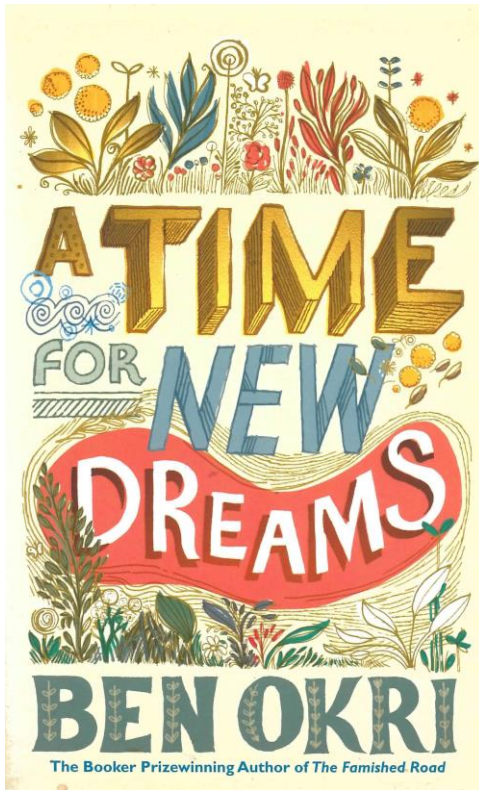


## Ben Okri's Advice for Me





## Ben Okri's Advice





# Task 1

A Memorable Moment



# What do you know?

- Travel
- Places
- Sports
- Hobbies
- Skills
- Books
- Films
- Art
- Board games
- Traditions
- Social media
- Business
- Job interviews
- Stock market
- Olympic Games
- Personal finance
- Electronics
- Music
- Personality types
- Self help
- Gaming
- Celebrities
- The environment
- Gym and fitness
- Animals and pets
- Health and wellness
- History



## My 3-Step Approach

- Write about something that has happened to you / you have done / know well
- Add the target vocabulary when you have finished writing your text

**AND/OR**

- Tweak the grammar to include the grammar structure you are focusing on

*Anything after this will be spin-off activities*

## Build a story around a memorable moment



## Build a story around a memorable moment

When I visited Moldova last summer, I signed up for a day-trip to Transnistria, a Soviet-styled breakaway republic, which is not recognised by a single UN country. There were numerous statues of Stalin around the capital Tiraspol, and happy-snappy as I am, I made the most of it.

When I was taking photos of the Government Building and the Stalin statue in front of it, a soldier came out and asked me to delete all the pictures with only the building in them. However, any picture of the Stalin statue in front of the building was OK. The soldier was polite and friendly, but watched over me closely as I deleted all the photos with only the building in them.

I left this tourist site with two questions: First, why is it OK to take a photo of the Government Building if you include the Stalin statue in your picture but not OK if you only take a photo of the building itself? Second, how is it possible that a soldier who knows exactly how to help tourists delete a photo on an iPhone, doesn't know that the iPhone lets you recover deleted photos for up to 30 days? He did not know this, but I deleted the backups anyway. Respect is important when you travel, even if you don't always agree with local practices.

## Memorable Moment with three vocab items added

When I visited Moldova last summer, I signed up for a day-trip to Transnistria, a Soviet-styled breakaway republic, which is not recognised by a single UN country. There were numerous statues of Stalin around the capital Tiraspol, *which makes you feel you're really going back in history. Russia **abandoned** Stalin's political ideas long ago. Anyway, happy-snappy as I am, I made the most of all these Stalin statues.*

When I was taking photos of the Government Building and the Stalin statue in front of it, a soldier came out and asked me to delete all the pictures with only the building in them. However, any picture of the Stalin statue in front of the building was OK. The soldier was polite and friendly, but watched over me closely as I deleted all the photos with only the building in them.

I left this tourist site *thinking this was really **odd***. First, why is it OK to take a photo of the Government Building if you include the Stalin statue in your picture but not OK if you only take a photo of the building itself? 2. How is it possible that a soldier who knows exactly how to help tourists delete a photo on an iPhone doesn't know that the iPhone lets you **restore** deleted photos for up to 30 days? He did not know this, but I deleted the backups anyway. Respect is important when you travel, even if you don't always agree with local practices.

## Task 1

- Draw three random vocabulary cards from our vocabulary list jar (Level 4)
- Work them into this story



# Task 2

A Memorable Moment



## Memorable Moment with three vocab items added

When I visited Moldova last summer, I signed up for a day-trip to Transnistria, a Soviet-styled breakaway republic, which is not recognised by a single UN country. There were numerous statues of Stalin around the capital Tiraspol, *which makes you feel you're really going back in history. Russia **abandoned** Stalin's political ideas long ago. Anyway, happy-snappy as I am, I made the most of all these Stalin statues.*

When I was taking photos of the Government Building and the Stalin statue in front of it, a soldier came out and asked me to delete all the pictures with only the building in them. However, any picture of the Stalin statue in front of the building was OK. The soldier was polite and friendly, but watched over me closely as I deleted all the photos with only the building in them.

I left this tourist site *thinking this was really **odd***. First, why is it OK to take a photo of the Government Building if you include the Stalin statue in your picture but not OK if you only take a photo of the building itself? 2. How is it possible that a soldier who knows exactly how to help tourists delete a photo on an iPhone doesn't know that the iPhone lets you **restore** deleted photos for up to 30 days? He did not know this, but I deleted the backups anyway. Respect is important when you travel, even if you don't always agree with local practices.

## Task 2

- Choose one of the grammar points below
- Tweak the story to include examples of this grammar point
  - *The Past Continuous*
  - *The Past Perfect*
  - *Comparatives and Superlatives*
  - *Prepositions of Place*



## Memorable Moment with grammar structure added

When **I was visiting** Moldova last summer, I signed up for a day-trip to Transnistria, a Soviet-styled breakaway republic, which is not recognised by a single UN country. There were numerous statues of Stalin around the capital Tiraspol, *which makes you feel you're really going back in history. Russia abandoned Stalin's political ideas long ago. Anyway, happy-snappy as I am, I made the most of all these Stalin statues.*

While **I was taking** photos of the Government Building and the Stalin statue in front of it, a soldier came out and asked me to delete all the pictures with only the building in them. However, any picture of the Stalin statue in front of the building was OK. The soldier was polite and friendly, but **he was watching** over me closely as I deleted all the photos with only the building in them.

As **I was leaving** this tourist site I thought that *this was really odd*. First, why is it OK to take a photo of the Government Building if you include the Stalin statue in your picture but not OK if you only take a photo of the building itself? The soldier didn't come out while **I was taking** photos of the building with the Stalin statue in the picture! Second, how is it possible that a soldier who knows exactly how to help tourists delete a photo on an iPhone doesn't know that the iPhone lets you **restore** deleted photos for up to 30 days? He did not know this because he didn't ask me about backups while **I was deleting** the photos. I deleted the backups anyway. Respect is important when you travel, even if you don't always agree with local practices.

# Vocabulary Focus

- How to check the reading level of your writing using Vocab Kitchen: <http://vocabkitchen.com/>



## Vocabulary Profilers



### What's a vocabulary profiler?

A vocabulary profiler is a tool that checks if a piece of text contains words from a vocabulary list. The vocabkitchen.com profiler shows matches in two ways. Matched words in the original text are given a different color, or you can view a list of all the words in a table organized by level. You don't need an account to use our profilers.



# Three Days in Kiev

A text for Mid-Intermediate students with ten B2 vocab items

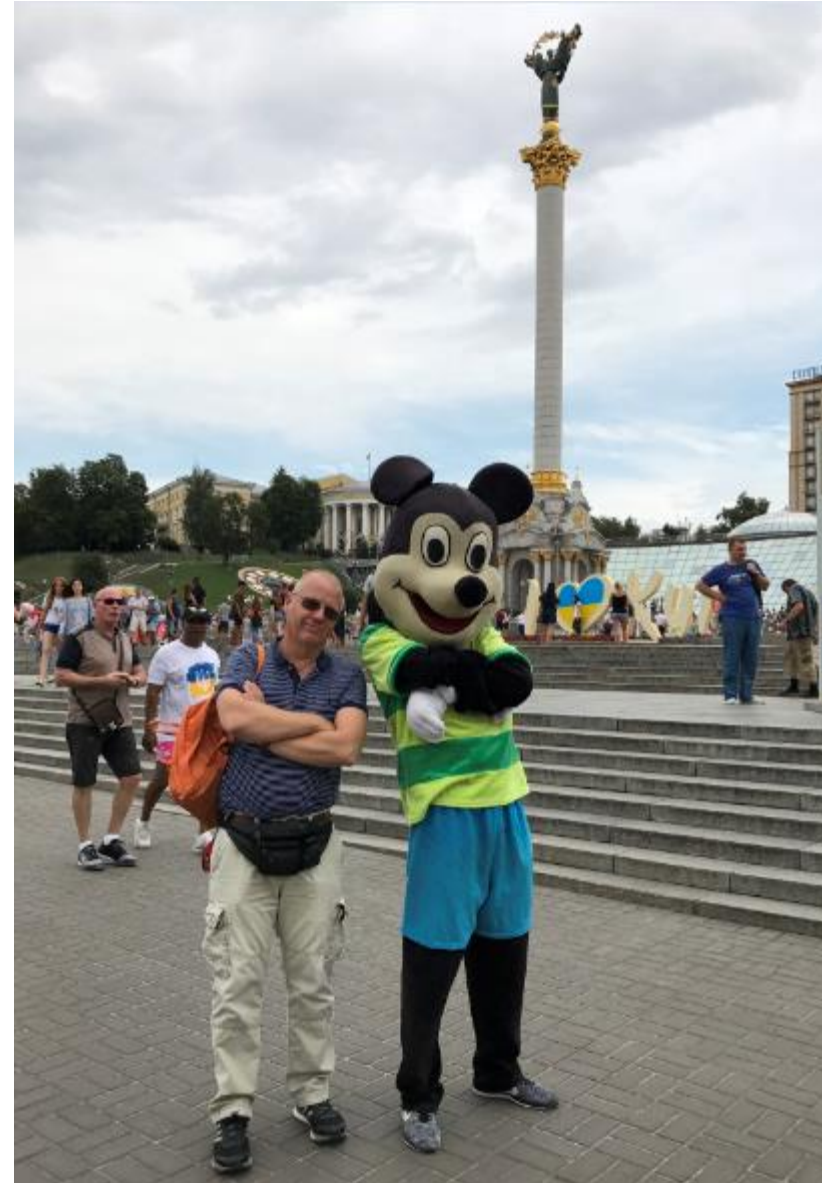


## Phase 1

- I selected a travel destination to write about
- I wrote an 840-word travel story, the average length of an IELTS reading
  - It took me about 1 hr 30 mins

*For my 19-year old male students, I realized a summary of the sights I had visited, along with historical details, wouldn't do. I decided to focus on random observations, things that surprised me and quirky details.*

**Here's the story!**



## Phase 2

- I added the ten vocabulary items I had been assigned
  - It took me about 30 minutes
  - The word count increased to 940 (12%)

Where and how might you add these words?

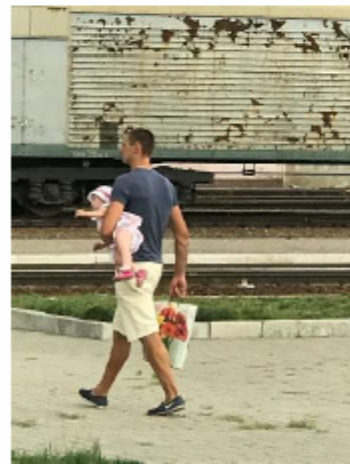
reject
reveal
substitute
symbol
target
trace
transform
transport
version
whereas

## Three Days in Kiev

### Phase 3

- I added photos to my text
  - This took me over an hour, but was great fun!

Last summer I travelled by train from Chisinau in Moldova to Kiev in Ukraine. This is a train that goes to Moscow but stops in Kiev on the way. If you **trace** this journey on a map, you can see that Kiev is between Chisinau and Moscow. The journey takes thirteen hours and if you travel by night, you don't need a hotel. If you take this train, remember that you can't take a nap when you get close to Kiev because you can end up in Russia if you don't wake up!



Travelling by train is my favourite means of **transport**. You have a lot time to think about where you have been and you can read about the next place you are visiting. I think it's much more relaxing than flying. My train left Chisinau 11 PM and slept like a baby all night.

The next day, we stopped for quite a while on the border between Moldova and Ukraine. This is where I saw a guy carrying a child under his arm. The child seemed happy and relaxed so I guess this kid was OK. Anyway, travelling by train, you can see all sort of things from your train window.



# Spin-Offs & Recycling



# Comprehension Questions

- The number one task type for most teachers with a well-targeted reading text they have written themselves would be some form of comprehension questions
- Here's an example of a set of such questions on Socrative

My Socrative Room Number today is: **99955**

*The SOC number is: **SOC-32676916** if you want to use this reading task in the future*



[www.socrative.com](http://www.socrative.com)

What question types can you spot?



## Ideas for Recycling & Spin-Offs

- Recycle target vocab by linking story elements with lexical items
- Create quizzes and games based on story elements
- Create quizzes and games based on the vocabulary
- Create quizzes and games based on grammar
- Devise speaking tasks based on the story
- Devise writing tasks based on the story
- Ask students to come up with out-of-the-text follow-on questions

Any Questions?

**THANK YOU**

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