DIRECT AND INDIRECT SPEECH – B1

I. About this lesson

Activity title: First day in school

Level: B1+

Recommended age: 10+

Subject: English as a foreign language

Timing: 45 minutes

Resources: Computer with internet connection, worksheet, Secret Coders Volume 1, by Gene Luen Yang, 2015.

Learning objectives:

   a. Direct speech

   b. Indirect speech

   c. Practice writing and speaking.

Materials needed: pen, paper, whiteboard, markers.

II. Lesson scenario

1. INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE TEACHER

About the comic :

Title: Secret Coders

Type of comic: Graphic novel

Authors: Gene Luen Yang

About the author: Gene Luen Yang began making comics and graphic novels in the fifth grade. In 2006, his book American Born Chinese was published by First Second Books. It became the first graphic novel to be nominated for a National Book Award and the first to win the American Library Association's Printz Award. It also won an Eisner Award for Best Graphic Album – New.

In 2013, First Second Books released Boxers & Saints, his two-volume graphic novel about the Boxer Rebellion. *Boxers & Saints* was nominated for a National Book Award and won the L.A. Times Book Prize. He has done a number of other comics, including Dark Horse Comics' continuation of the popular Nickelodeon cartoon Avatar: The Last Airbender and DC Comics' Superman.

In addition cartooning, he teaches creative writing through Hamline University's MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults. (available at: https://geneyang.com/about-gene)

Summary: Welcome to Stately Academy, a school which is just crawling with mysteries to be solved! The founder of the school left many clues and puzzles to challenge his enterprising students. Using their wits and their growing prowess with coding, Hopper and her friend Eni are going to solve the mystery of Stately Academy no matter what it takes! (available at: https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/23310720-secret-coders)

Introduction (5 min)

This is a Flipped Classroom activity to be used after a vacation with a class you have already worked with and has no new students. A few days before the class begins send all students an email asking them to read pages 5 to 9 of the Secret Coders comic and think of a bad day at school that they will be asked to present in class. If you use it after a short vacation, you can give it to them before the vacation begins.

Start the lesson with a short "Check IN":

a. Welcome them back from vacation and spend a few minutes asking them what they did during the vacation. Make sure everybody gets to speak.

b. Tell them that today, we will discuss first days in school using a text you have all read before class. Ask them if they read the comic, and let them discuss in pairs what they think about it.

c. Then, ask them whether they have a similar story of their own for a bad day at school, and ask them to narrate it to their classmate. Their classmate should keep notes.

Grammar (15 min)

a. Print the worksheet and distribute it among students.

b. Ask them to read the comic explaining what reported speech is and how it is formed.

c. Do they have any questions?

d. Now ask them to use their notes to write their classmate's story in reported speech.

e. Then ask them to read the stories in class.

f. End by voting for the best story.

Evaluation (15 min)

a. Each pair exchanges stories with the pair next to them.

b. They now have to re-write the story they were given in direct speech by using /adapting the comic below or by going online to the account that you will have made for them already.

Finish the lesson with a short "Check out" (5 min)

a. Tell them that during the lesson they learned the basics of reported speech.

b. As an assignment they need to write a summary of the comic they read for a magazine of their choice. The deadline is the next lesson.

2. WORKSHEET FOR STUDENTS

EXERCISE 1: Welcome to the new semester

Discuss in the classroom how your holidays were.

Make pairs and discuss about the comic you read during your holidays.

Share with your pair a similar story that has happened to you.

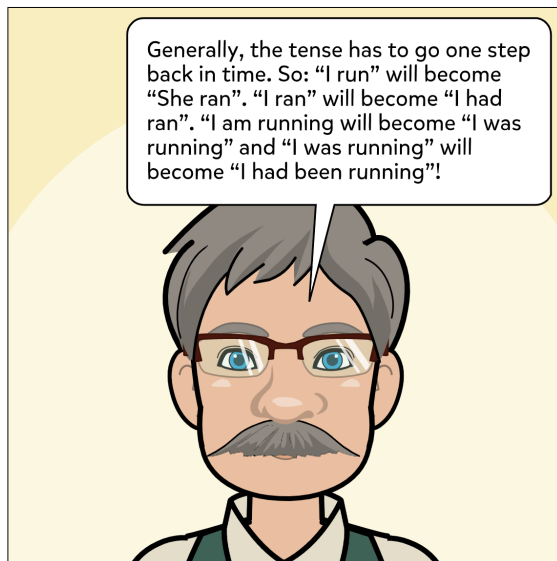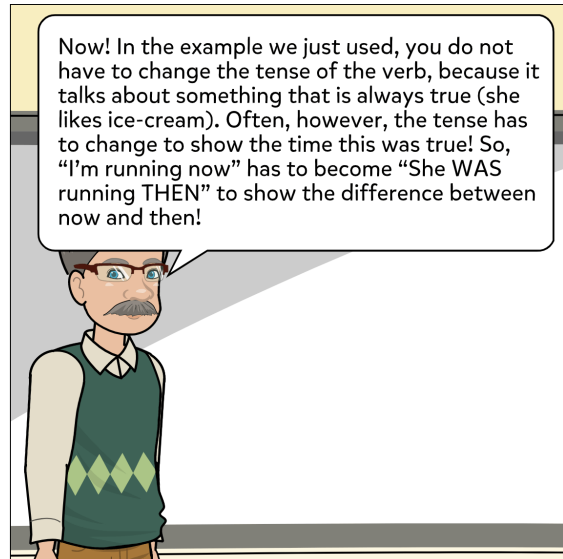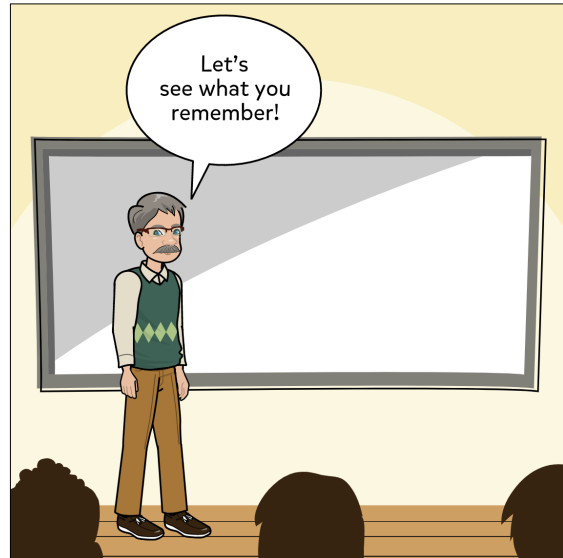Listeners should keep notes!

EXERCISE 2: Grammar

Task 1: Read the comic below.

Task 2: Use your notes to write your colleague's story in reported speech.

Task 3: Read the stories in class.

Task 4: Which is the funniest story? Vote!

Ah! First day in school and reported speech already!

Let's see what you remember!

First, we have to use a reporting verb like "say" or "tell" and change the "I" into "he" or "she". So, if your colleague says "I like ice-cream" you will report it by saying "SHE SAID that SHE likes ice-cream".

Now! In the example we just used, you do not have to change the tense of the verb, because it talks about something that is always true (she likes ice-cream). Often, however, the tense has to change to show the time this was true! So, "I'm running now" has to become "She WAS running THEN" to show the difference between now and then!

Generally, the tense has to go one step back in time. So: "I run" will become "She ran". "I ran" will become "I had ran". "I am running will become "I was running" and "I was running" will become "I had been running"!

So, what do you think? Ready to have a go?

Evaluation

Now exchange your story with the pair closest to you. Re-write the story to direct speech by using or adapting the comic below, or by doing what your teacher asks you to do.

III. Modification and Differentiation ideas

Ask them to write how they would react if they had Hopper's first day at school.