

Bus Stop

Oral Language Strategy Sheet

Bus Stop is an oral language strategy involving both speaking and listening, where students manage and share information to correctly piece together a coherent story from a series of apparently random clues. It is a strategy that helps build student confidence in speaking aloud within a group.

Learning Outcomes

Oral Language – 1, 11,
Reading – 1, 2, 3
Writing – 3, 9, 11

Key Skills

Communicating
Working Together
Managing Information and Thinking
Being Creative
Literacy

Print Outs

Page with 30 clue cards

Materials / Technology

N/A

Student Friendly Learning Intentions:

Students will...

Communicate with each other
Work together to organise themselves
Manage information from the clue cards and determine important information
Create a backstory for their character

Preparation

Cut up the clue cards and store in envelope (you may need to make up a few more clues if your numbers are above 30)

Draw a bus stop on the board



Instructions

1. Introduce the activity:
‘We are going to try to solve a puzzle – it is called the ‘Bus Stop’. I want you to imagine a bus stop with 30 people queuing at it. Each of the characters in the queue has a specific place and is doing a specific things. We are now going to become that queue by effectively communicating and working with each other. We will read clues and use the information on the cards to organise ourselves in to our proper position.’
2. Ensure that you have the correct number of cards for the students in front of you. Shuffle the pack and hand them out.
‘I will now hand out the clue cards and I want you to read through them carefully.
I want you to determine the three most important clues that you’ll need to find your place in the queue.
On your feet! You have 5 minutes to find your place.’
3. Assessment:
‘When you think you are in the right place, check with the person in front of you and behind you by asking him/her to read his/her clue to verify that you are in the correct place.’
4. Creating characters – ask the students the following questions:
 - Who is having a stressful day? Why?
 - Who thinks they are about to have a very good day? Why?
 - What are you wearing? Describe it.
 - What’s worrying you? Explain
 - What are you looking forward to later today?
 - Who is most likely to go on a date?
5. Ask students to return to their seats and invite them to reflect on their learning. Teacher questioning.
 - What did you learn from doing that exercise?
 - What elements of the key skills did you use?

Assessment

Teacher questioning, teacher observation, peer assessment, student reflection on their learning.

Extension Activities

This could easily be adapted into writing activities with the following outcomes in mind: W3, W9, W11

Bus-Stop: Teacher's copy of the clues (in order)

1. You are the first person in the line. You were delighted not to be late this morning. You're often late. You talked about the weather with the person behind you.
2. You're worried about a sick relative, but you're trying to take your mind off it by keeping busy with a trip into town. You talked about the weather with the person in front of you. The person behind you let you share their umbrella.
3. Last night a stranger paid for your pint of milk when you realised you'd left your purse at home. Today you're sharing your umbrella with the person in front of you. The person behind you caught a train at 6.30 to get in the line early.
4. You are tired as you caught the train at 6.30 to be in the line early. Your mind is racing because today is a very important day. The person in front of you shared an umbrella with someone else in the line. The person behind you bought and ate an ice cream. You are starting to feel a bit peckish.
5. You're feeling great today. Who cares if it's raining? You felt like an ice-cream so you bought one to eat while you were waiting. You're really enjoying your freedom. The person in front of you caught a train to be in the line early. The person behind you has a dog.
6. You're regretting wearing your new shoes. They're already cutting your heel and you have been on your feet all day. You have your dog with you. The person in front of you ate an ice cream. The person behind you had a lot of shopping bags.
7. You can't wait to get home. Your back is aching from carrying so many shopping bags. The person in front of you had a dog. The person behind you listened to their iPod the whole time. The music made you think about your daughter.
8. You listen to music on your iPod while you wait. You love this song! The person in front of you has a lot of heavy shopping. You have fifty euro in your pocket. The person behind you asked you to save their place while they made a telephone call.
9. You're a bit flustered because your friends keep changing the plans for today. You had to make a telephone call and asked people to save your place. The person in front of you listened to an iPod while they waited. The person behind you bought a can of Coke. You don't drink fizzy drinks yourself.
10. You bought a can of Coke while you were waiting. You go running with your sister most evenings. The person in front of you asked you to save their place while they made a telephone call. The person behind you smoked a whole packet of cigarettes. You're a bit annoyed because you hate the smell.
11. You keep thinking about what happened yesterday. You smoked 20 cigarettes while you were waiting. The person in front of you drank a can of Coke. The people behind you had an argument. You're not sure what it was about.
12. Your day feels like it's been ruined already. You quarrelled with your friend in the line. You hate to argue. The person in front of you smoked a lot of cigarettes. The person behind you bought twelve tickets. You wish you'd taken the time to eat some breakfast.
13. You are delighted with your day so far. You love to be organised. You bought twelve tickets for a school trip. The people in front of you had an argument. The person behind you drank coffee from a flask. You set two more reminders in your phone.
14. You and your friend bought a flask of coffee to drink while you were waiting. She's a great friend. You've known each other since you were five. The person in front of you bought twelve tickets for a show. The person behind you read the newspaper.

15. You're a regular commuter. You get this bus most days. You read the newspaper while you waited. The people in front of you drank coffee from a flask. The person behind you dropped a shopping bag and broke some eggs. You just kept reading about the latest government scandal.
16. You dropped a shopping bag and broke all the eggs. You'll need to buy more by tomorrow. You love to try new things. The person in front of you read a newspaper. The person behind you helped pick all the shopping up.
17. Your favourite TV show is 'Coronation Street', you can't wait to see what will happen tonight. The person in front of you dropped their shopping bag and vegetables went all over the pavement. You helped pick them up. The people behind you sang songs.
18. The person in front of you helped pick up vegetables from a shopping bag that broke. You are having the best day ever. You're very excited about something. You and your friends sing songs to stop yourselves getting bored while you wait for the bus. The person behind you has a heavy suitcase.
19. You keep running over things in your head. You have a very heavy suitcase with you. The people in front of you sang songs, normally that would make you smile, but not today. The person behind you had a small child with them.
20. You wish the bus would hurry up. You have a small child with you. He really wants an ice-cream. The person in front of you has a heavy suitcase. The person behind you is wearing a scarf and going to the football.
21. You keep thinking about a joke you heard earlier. You might tell it yourself later. You are wearing a scarf because you are going to football. The person in front of you has a small child. The person behind you is engrossed in a book.
22. You are right at the exciting part of your book. You love to read fiction. You have no interest in non-fiction. The person in front of you looks like they are going to a sporting event because they have one of those scarves. The person behind you is really bad tempered.
23. You are running very late for an appointment and you are not happy. You hate public transport. You find strangers incredibly irritating. You wish that person in front would put down the book and pay attention to moving along in the bus line. The person behind you wants 50 cent.
24. You are very embarrassed because you don't have enough money for the bus fare. You feel like crying but you would never cry in public. You are worried about asking the person in front of you for money because they are in a very bad mood. The person behind you is wearing very strong cologne.
25. You have three sisters and each of them texted you early this morning. You are wearing your favourite cologne. It's just as well you grabbed those tissues before you raced out of the door because the person behind you doesn't have any and they are coughing and sneezing. The person in front of you is looking a bit embarrassed.
26. You had a great night's sleep and cleaned the kitchen before you left home. You are wondering what that awful cologne is. It's really beginning to affect your hay fever and you start coughing and sneezing. The person in front offers you a tissue. You wonder if you have time to get to the chemist this morning. The person behind you is carrying a large musical instrument.
27. You can feel your lucky coin in your pocket. You're glad to have it with you today. You are on your way to an orchestral recital where you will play the cello solo. The person in front of you is sneezing and coughing. The person behind you is wearing a beanie and dark glasses. You remind yourself to ring your mother after the recital.
28. You're having a most unusual day. You are wearing a beanie and dark glasses. It's been years since you've queued for a bus. The person in front of you has a musical instrument. The person behind you is carrying an enormous cardboard box.
29. You are exhausted from lugging this enormous cardboard box across town. You know that people take advantage of your good nature, but you find it hard to say no. The person in front of you is wearing a beanie and dark glasses. The person behind you keeps smiling. You think this is a bit odd.
30. You feel like you could explode with happiness. You can't help smiling to yourself. The person in front of you is carrying an enormous cardboard box. You wonder for a second what it contains, but then you go back to your own happy thoughts.

Bus Stop: Student Clue Cards

You are the first person in the line. You were delighted not to be late this morning. You're often late. You talked about the weather with the person behind you.



You're worried about a sick relative, but you're trying to take your mind off it by keeping busy with a trip into town. You talked about the weather with the person in front of you. The person behind you let you share their umbrella.

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You're regretting wearing your new shoes. They're already cutting your heel and you have to be on your feet all day. You have your dog with you. The person in front of you ate an ice cream. The person behind you had a lot of shopping bags.

You can't wait to get home. Your back is aching from carrying so many shopping bags. The person in front of you had a dog. The person behind you listened to their iPod the whole time. The music made you think about your daughter.

You listen to music on your iPod while you wait. You love this song! The person in front of you has a lot of heavy shopping. You have fifty euro in your pocket. The person behind you asked you to save their place while they made a telephone call.

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You are running very late for an appointment and you are not happy. You hate public transport. You find strangers incredibly irritating. You wish that person in front would put down the book and pay attention to moving along in the bus line. The person behind you wants 50 cent.

You are very embarrassed because you don't have enough money for the bus fare. You feel like crying but you would never cry in public. You are worried about asking the person in front of you for money because they are in a very bad mood. The person behind you is wearing very strong cologne.

You have three sisters and each of them texted you early this morning. You are wearing your favourite cologne. It's just as well you grabbed those tissues before you raced out of the door because the person behind you doesn't have any and they are coughing and sneezing. The person in front of you is looking a bit embarrassed.

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