Second Experience Sharing on the 2009/10 "Seed" Project

Case Studies in Differentiated Instruction in Specific Areas at Junior Secondary Level: Catering for Learner Diversity in English Language Learning

By TWGHs Yow Kam Yuen College

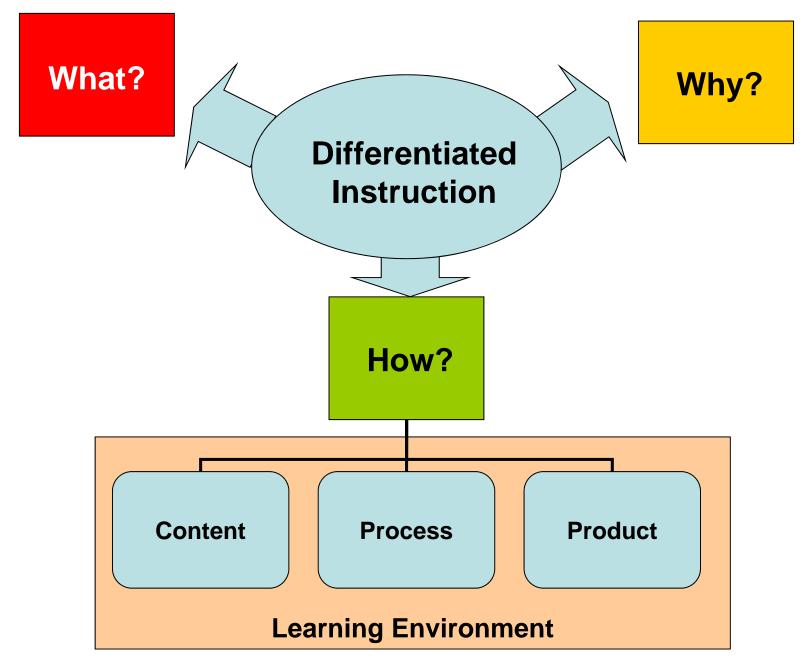


7 July 2010 English Language Education Section Curriculum Development Institute Education Bureau

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Today's Programme

| 2:00 – 2:20 pm | Recap of Phase I Tryouts |
|----------------|--|
| | 1. A Brief Summary of Phase I Tryouts 👘 🧖 |
| | 2. Experience Gained |
| 2:20 – 3:45 pm | Phase II Tryouts: |
| | Planning, Implementation & Evaluation |
| | 1. Content – Grammar Forms and Functions |
| | 2. Process |
| | • Using Tiered Activities to Address the Needs of Students at Different Levels of Readiness |
| | Using Flexible Grouping to Enhance Learning |
| | Varying Teacher Support |
| | 3. Product |
| | 4. Reflection: Difficulties Encountered & Experience Gained |
| 3:45 – 4:00 pm | Way Forward 2 |



Two Phases of Tryouts in S3

Phase I Reading Skills

Tryout 1: 2/11/09 – 6/11/09

Tryout 2: 3/12/09 – 9/12/09 Phase II Learning Grammar in Context

Tryout 1: 1/3/10 – 5/3/10

Tryout 2: 3/5/10 – 7/5/10



Phase I Tryouts

Phase I Tryouts The Development and Consolidation of Reading Skills

Whose Idea Was It, Anyway?

Thomson Nelson

978-0-17-011698-5



Identifying Students' Strengths & Weaknesses in Reading

Students' Current Levels

Students' current reading levels: around <u>Levels 2/3</u> with reference to the LPF for reading

Students at Levels 2/3 can, e.g.

- work out the meaning of words and phrases by using knowledge of letter-sound relationships and word formation
- locate specific information by identifying key words
- make predictions about the content from the titles, illustrations or contents page

Expected Levels

Target reading levels: Levels 4/5 with reference to the LPF for reading Students at Levels 4/5 can, e.g. work out the meaning of words, phrases and some idiomatic expressions by using semantic and syntactic clues follow ideas by recognising simple text structures and understanding the use of cohesive devices organise information and

ideas in texts by using knowledge of text structures and some graphic forms

Content– Selecting Appropriate Reading Materials

Tryout 1 -Household Inventions

Whose Idea Was It, Anyway?

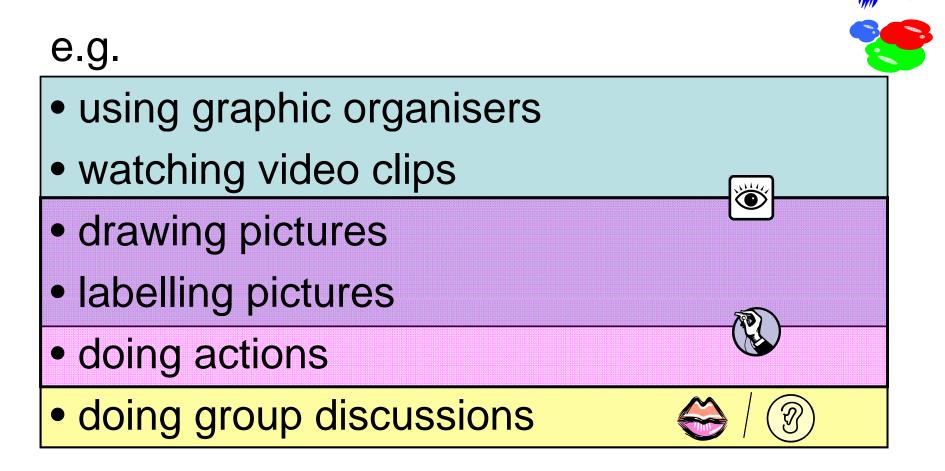
pp. 2,3,5

Tryout 2 – Games & Zany Inventions

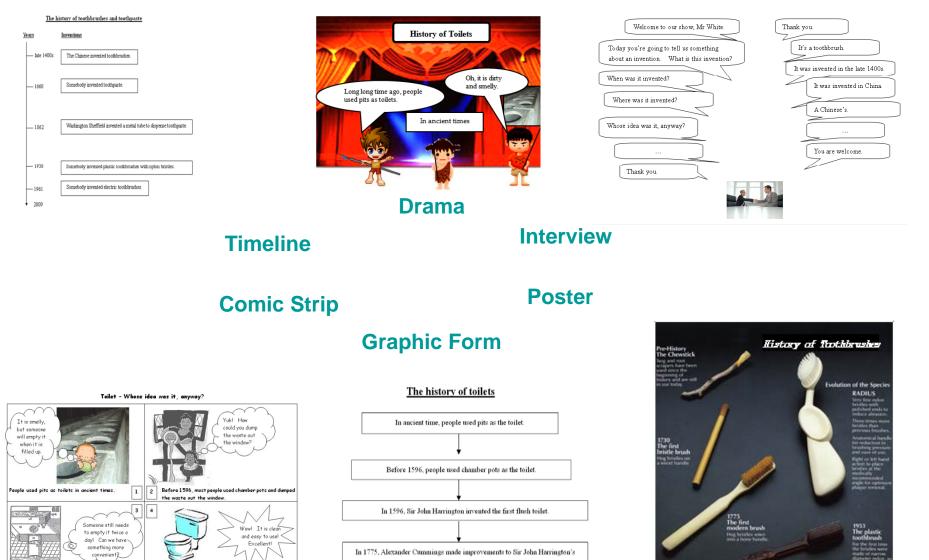
Whose Idea Was It, Anyway?

pp. 27 - 29

Differentiating the Process – Using Different Teaching Activities to Address the Needs of Students with Different Learning Styles



Differentiating the Product – Providing Choices in Demonstrating Learning



flush toilet and made water closets.

In 1596, Sir John Harrington invented the modern

toilet

Finally in 1775.

closets

Impact of the Phase I Tryouts on Teachers

Adopting different teaching strategies:

- Selecting and using a wide range of materials and activities in response to student abilities, interests and learning profiles – auditory, visual and kinesthetic
- Providing multi-option assignments to encourage students to express what they have learnt in varied ways
- Using graphic organisers to guide different types of learners to structure information
- Planning with collaborative learning in mind
- Varying teacher input, e.g. more demonstration and examples for weaker students to model after

Planning for the Phase II Tryouts

- Some DI strategies were effective and should be further strengthened:
 - e.g. using a variety of activities during the learning process to cater for learner diversity (process)
 - encouraging students to demonstrate their learning in varied ways (product)
- Some DI strategies were not fully experimented in the Phase I Tryouts and could be further explored:

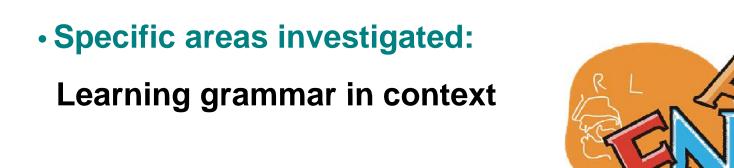
e.g. – collaborative learning

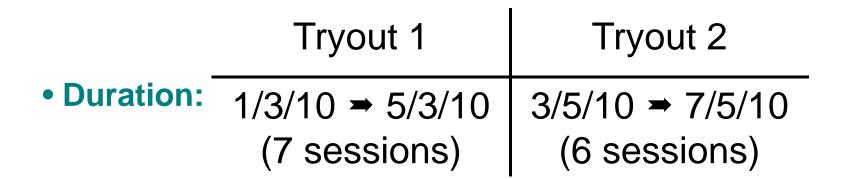
- New elements
 - e.g. applying DI in another area, i.e. learning grammar in context
 - using collaborative learning to engage students in a common task



Phase II Tryouts

Phase II Tryouts





Usual Practice in Grammar Teaching Before the Project

- Teachers "taught" students all grammar rules listed in the grammar book in isolation.
- Teachers used PPT slides mainly for explanation.
- Grammar knowledge was assessed through discrete items.

Why do I have to learn grammar?

Grammar Learning

- Ss forgot the rules easily.
- Ss could not use their grammar knowledge for communicative purposes in other contexts.



From usual practice

Other teaching strategies

Other Teaching Strategies (I) Learning and Teaching Grammar in Context Using an Inductive Approach

With teacher support, the target grammar items/structures are identified by the student from the texts.

The target grammar items/structures are classified by the student according to their forms.

A hypothesis is made by the student about the forms and functions of the target grammar items/structures, using previous knowledge and contextual clues.

The target grammar items/structures are compared with similar ones, and the difference, if any, highlighted by the student.

What has been learnt is confirmed and consolidated by making reference to dictionaries, grammar books, textbooks, etc. by the student, 17

Other Teaching Strategies (II) Learning and Teaching Grammar in Context Using a Task-based Approach

The purpose and context of the Main Task are examined and the grammar items/structures to be learnt are identified by the teacher.

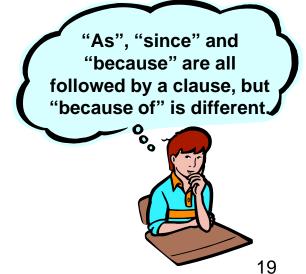
A cluster of **sub-tasks** is designed by the teacher for the introduction of the target grammar items/structures and for the students' practice.

Knowledge of the target grammar items/structures gained from the sub-tasks is applied when the student works on the Main Task.

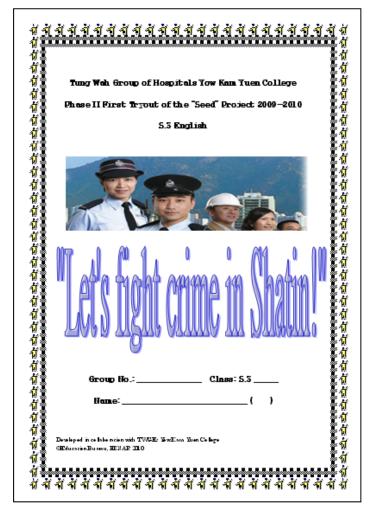
The Use of Inductive Approach and **Task-based Approach to Address Student Needs**

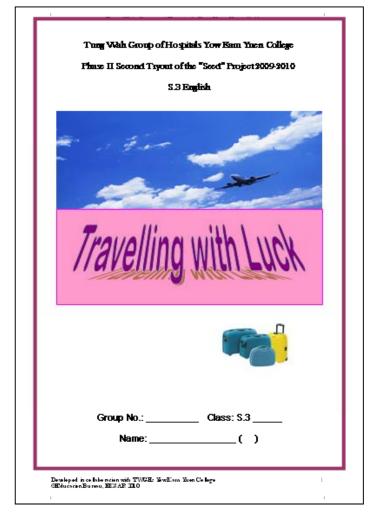
 The inductive approach allows more room for teachers to vary their input and support during the learning process according to the students' needs.

- The task-based approach provides opportunities for students to explore the language in context and interact with each other.
- Both approaches increase student participation and promote purposeful use of the target language.



Phase II Tryouts Learning Grammar in Context





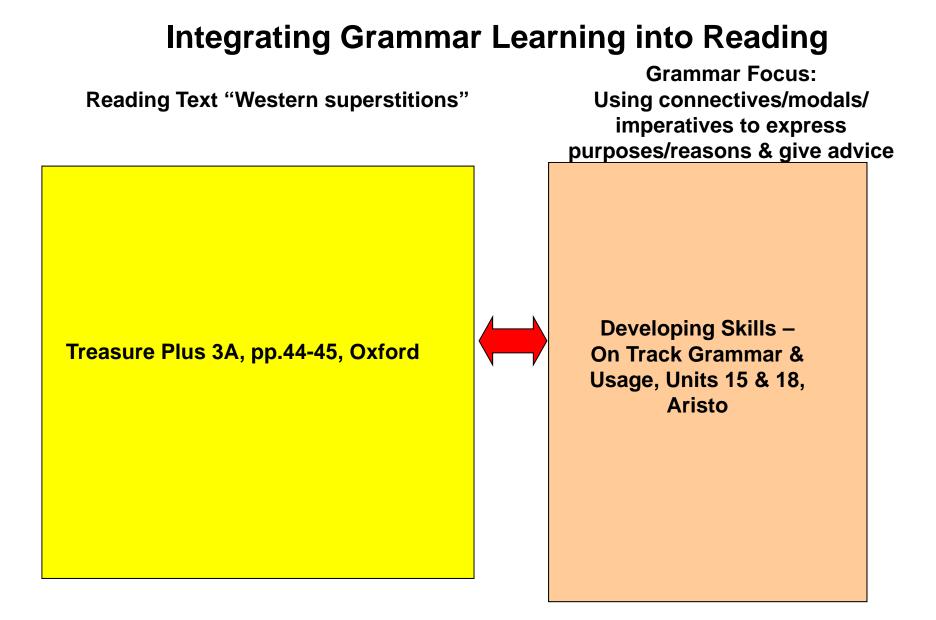
Tryout 1 – Let's Fight Crime in Shatin!

Tryout 2 – Travelling with Luck

Integrating Grammar Learning into Reading

Grammar Focus:

Reading Text "A school burglary" Using passive constructions to talk about what happened in a school burglary **Developing Skills – Treasure Plus 3A**, **On Track Grammar &** p.24, Oxford Usage, Unit 3, Aristo





Planning Stage

Unit Overview – Phase II Tryout I Task-based Approach

<u>Unit Overview</u>

Theme: "Let's fight crime in Shatin!"

Task 1: How safe is Shatin? Input: - A news article about a school burglary in Shatin (for

- students to locate samples of passive constructions in the simple past tense)
- A fact sheet about crime rates in Shatin (for students to write a short report using passive constructions in the simple past tense for presentation)
- Form: Passive voice in the simple past tense
- Function: To present factual information about crime Activities:
- Ghost Leg: "The sequel to a burglary in Shatin"
 Designing a board game based on the game "Under arrest!"
- Writing a short report about crime in Shatin

Task 2: Check before you go! Input:

- A video from the Hong Kong Police Force (for students to get ideas about crime prevention)
 A telephone conversation between the Principal
- and the Vice-principal about the school burglary
- (for students to locate samples of passive
- constructions in the simple present tense)
- Form: Passive voice in the simple present tense Function: To give advice about crime prevention Activities:
- Making a checklist for the caretakers
- Making bookmarks for crime prevention in Shatin

Task 3: Safeguard your possessions Input:

A leaflet (for students to find, organise and present information about crime prevention)
Form: Passive voice in the simple future tense
Function: To present future plans about crime prevention
Activities:
Making a plan for the crime prevention programme for the event "Let's fight crime

in Shatin!"

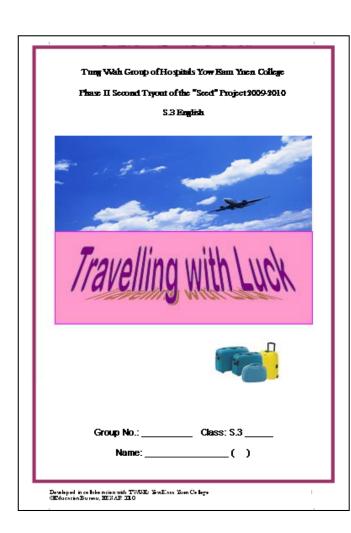
Main Task: Producing bookmarks and a leaflet for the competition in the "Let's fight crime in Shatin!" event

Unit Overview – Phase II Tryout II Task-based Approach

Unit Overview

| | Theme: Travelling with Luck | |
|--|---|---|
| Task 1: "Lucky" tips for the New Year Input: A webpage introducing some traditional Chinese New Year food and the reasons why they are served An article about the predictionfor the fortune of the year Form: The connectives "in order to", "so as to", "so that", "because", "since" and "as" Functions: To talk about the purposes and reason for eating special food at the Chinese New Year, and state why travellers have to pay attention to certain thing with reference to their zodiac signs Activities: Completing a table about the fortune of the year by using the information from a reading text Giving advice with reasons to people according to their zodiac signs | Form: The imperatives, questions beginning with "why not" and the modals "should" and "had better" Function: To give advice about where to go for sightseeing and shopping, and things to buy Activities: Card game: Giving advice about different activities and places to visit in Hong Kong using the target language items | Task 3: A "lucky" travel plan Input: A printout of the Q&A section from the webpage of the Hong Kong Travel Agent Students' shopping tips produced in Task 2 Form: The connectives "in order to", "so as to", "so that", "because", "since" and "as", the imperatives, questions beginning with "why not" and the modals "should" and "had better" Functions: To express purposes and reasons and give travelling tips with reference to the zodiac signs Activity: Replying to visitors' enquiries about sightseeing and shopping in Hong Kong |

Main Task: Making a "lucky" travel plan for travellers to Hong Kong with reference to their zodiac signs



Differentiating the Content

All students learn the same language functions:

- giving advice
- giving reasons

but more language forms are provided for students who are more ready:

| Lang functions | Students who are less ready | Students who are more ready |
|-------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Giving advice | "should", "why not", "had better", imperatives + base form | + "What about" + gerund |
| Giving reasons | "as", "since", "because", "in order to", "so that" + clause | + "because of" + noun phrase 26 |

Differentiating the Process (I) – Using Tiered Activities to Address the Needs of Students at Different Levels of Readiness

Example 1: Listening Activity

Task: After listening to the conversation between the Principal and the Vice-principal about how to raise the security standard of the school, do the following:

Students who are less ready: tick the statements mentioned in the conversation. (Nos. 1-9) Average students: write a piece of advice that is in the conversation, but not listed. (No. 10) More able students: add two more preventive tips to the checklist. (Nos. 11-12)

| | Before you leave, make sure the following is done: | | |] | | |
|-----|--|--------------|-----|--|--------------|----|
| 1. | The computer equipment is stored in the computer room. | \checkmark | 2. | The windows in the computer room are opened. | | |
| 3. | The computers are removed. | | 4. | The windows in the staff room are closed. | | |
| 5. | The Vice-principal's room is locked. | | 6. | The Principal's room is locked. | | |
| 7. | All the lights in the corridor are turned on. | | 8. | All the money is kept in the safe. | | |
| 9. | The safe in the Principal's room is locked. | | 10. | The on. | \checkmark | |
| 11. | | | 12. | | | 27 |

Differentiating the Process (I) – Using Tiered Activities to Address the Needs of Students at Different Levels of Readiness

Example 2: Case Cards

Task: Ss answer questions posted on the Q&A section of the webpage. Ss who are less ready: attempt easier cases More able Ss: attempt more demanding cases

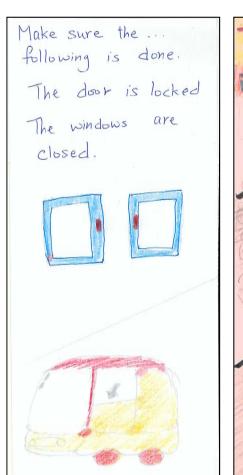
Case 4: (easy)

My husband is a Horse and I am a Rat. We will visit Hong Kong for the first time in March. Can you suggest some places and activities for us?

> Case 5: (more demanding as Ss have to provide a more comprehensive answer) I am a Rabbit. I plan to go to Hong Kong with my friend, who is a Sheep. When should we go on the trip? What places should we visit in Hong Kong? What should we buy to bring us more luck? More importantly, what should I pay attention to during my visit?

Differentiating the Process (II) – Using Flexible Grouping to Enhance Learning

Example 1: Bookmark Design





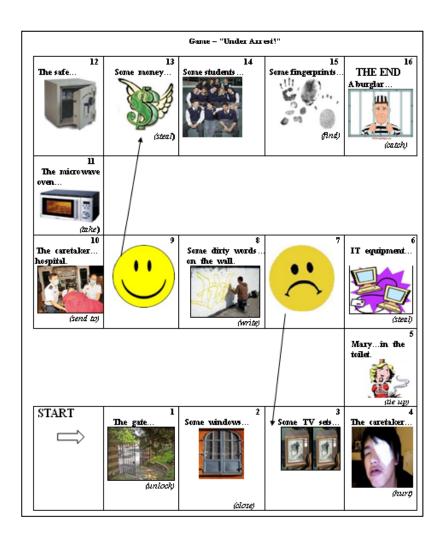
Function: Give advice on crime prevention



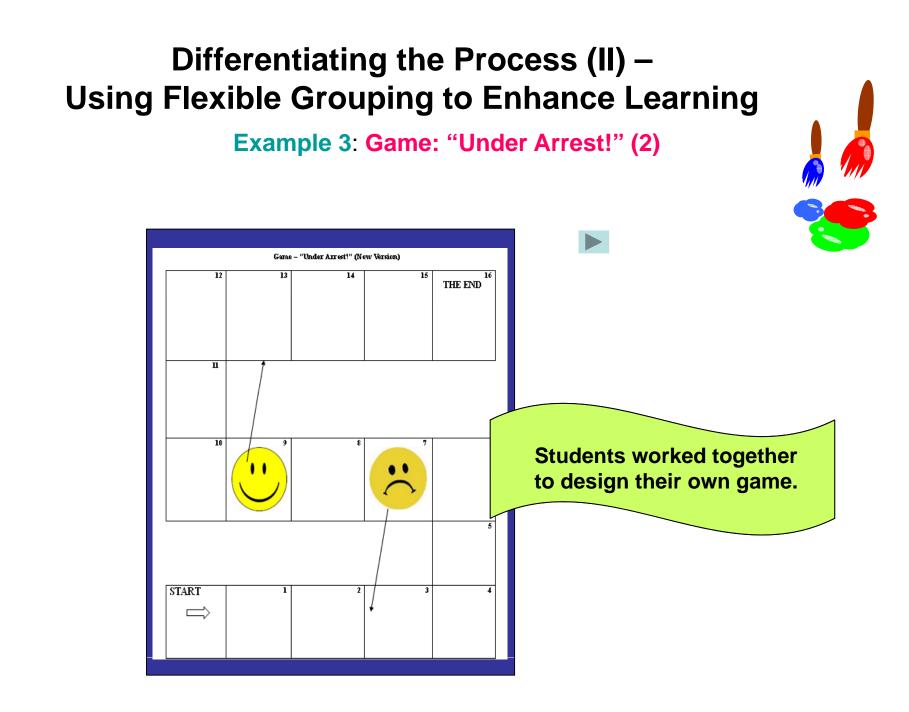
- Form: "Make sure" + passive voice in the simple present tense
- Task: Students discuss in groups what crime prevention tips to be put on the bookmarks. Then each student designs a bookmark with a piece of advice on crime prevention.

Differentiating the Process (II) – Using Flexible Grouping to Enhance Learning

Example 2: Game: "Under Arrest!" (1)



- Function: Talk about what happened to the people and the property in a school burglary
- Form: Passive voice in the simple past tense
- Task: Students talk about what happened in a school burglary according to the clues.
- 4 students in each group: S1: weakest S2: average S3: average S4: strongest



Differentiating the Process (III) – Varying Teacher Support Example:

Discovering Grammar Rules



Rats might feel a bit down in 2009 as they had to keep themselves out of trouble all the time. However, things have started to change in 2010 because the Year of Tiger is a good year for them Although minor health problems may happen, they can be solved quickly. In order to prevent health problems, they should eat vegetarian food. Single Rats may like to hike in the countryside since greenery brings good luck to their career or study. However, they had better avoid travelling to the north as this may get them into money problems.

Interesting Rat Facts: Zodiac colour: green – good for wealth Lucky direction: west – good for career or study Season: spring Charm: jade accessories – good for love





Greenery

Teachers provided additional support to the weaker students by breaking down the steps and demonstrating to them how to locate the target grammar items and identify the functions they perform.

Task: Find the sentences which tell what people of different zodiac signs should do and why they have to do so from the article "Prediction of Your Life and Fortune in 2010". Try to divide the sentences into three parts: "what people do", "connectives" and "purposes/reasons".

| What people do | Connectives | Purposes/Reasons |
|-------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|
| Single rats may like to | since | greenery brings good luck to his |
| hike in the countryside | | career/study. |
| | | |
| They should eat more | in order to | prevent health problems. |
| vegetables | | |
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Differentiating the Product

e.g. First Tryout

- Bookmark 🕨

(Present advice on crime prevention)

 Leaflet (Final product)
 (Give facts about crimes in Shatin and make plans for crime prevention measures)

Second Tryout

- Case Cards 🕨

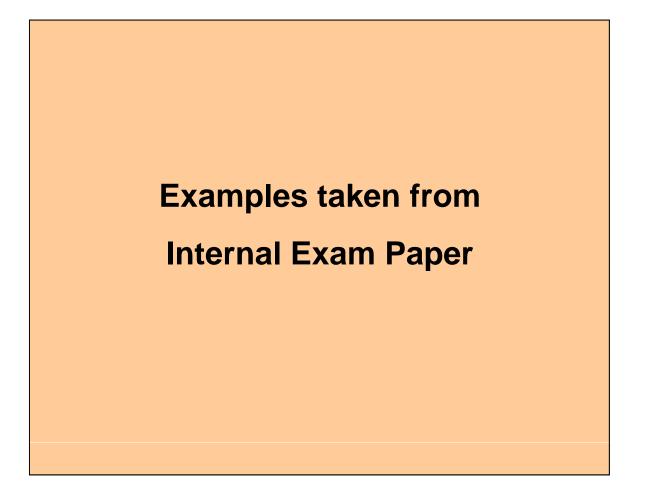
(Give advice to travellers on what (not) to do based on their zodiac signs)

 A 'lucky' travel plan (Final product)
 (Suggest a 1-2 day travel plan with reference to the zodiac signs)

Assessments

Final Examination – Reading Comprehension & Using Grammar in Context





Difficulties Encountered in Phase II Tryouts (I)

| Difficulties Encountered | Action Taken |
|--|---|
| The big class size was a crucial factor hindering the smooth implementation of the planned learning, teaching and assessment activities. | Co-teaching helped to provide additional teacher input. |
| Some students could not follow the activities, e.g. they found it hard to discover the grammar rules from the examples. | Tasks were broken down into shorter, more manageable steps, with very clear instructions and demonstration to guide students through. More visual support was given to help visual learners understand and learn better. |

Difficulties Encountered in Phase II Tryouts (II)

| Difficulties Encountered | Action Taken |
|--|---|
| Some students were not active in class and showed little interest in learning. | Different kinds of activities, especially creative work, were provided in the course of learning. Teachers had to engage students in purposeful group work which allowed more S-S interactions. Mixed groups provided opportunities for the students to learn from peers. The brighter students helped the others to complete the tasks and the weaker students were more willing to approach group members for assistance. |

Difficulties Encountered in Phase II Tryouts (III)

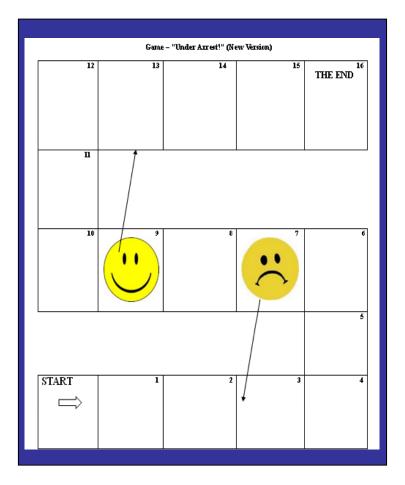
| Difficulties Encountered | Action to be Taken in Future |
|---|--|
| • Teachers were not sure if students could really acquire the grammar knowledge as some tasks were rather "unconventional" to both the teachers and the students. | Instead of using only summative assessments, teachers have to evaluate the effectiveness of learning and teaching through various formative assessments, e.g. class work & presentations with timely feedback. |
| • The teaching outcome was not as ideal as expected. | It might not be easy to try something new with S3 students as some of them have already developed some less desirable learning habits. New teaching approaches may produce better outcomes with S1 students. |
| Some students could not apply what they had learnt in the two modules correctly in the final products. | Language items should be recycled in purposeful contexts. |

Teachers' Reflection on the Phase II Tryouts

Impact on Students

- Most students loved to work with peers.
- Most students could retain and understand the grammar knowledge better if they could work out the grammar rules themselves.
- Students loved creative work and assignments which matched their learning preferences.
- Students learnt best when they could make use of grammar knowledge in context.

Students' Comments on the Board Game "Under Arrest!"



This game:

- allows us to apply our grammar knowledge in a meaningful context.
- allows us to interact with one another. If I have problems, I can get them sorted with the help of my group mates.
- creates room for more creativity and originality.
- is more challenging!
- is fun!

Students' Comments on the Use of the Inductive Approach

- We learnt actively and participated in class activities with a high degree of involvement.
- We identified the grammar rules ourselves. In the end, knowledge could be consolidated and better retained.



Shatin JPC 2009

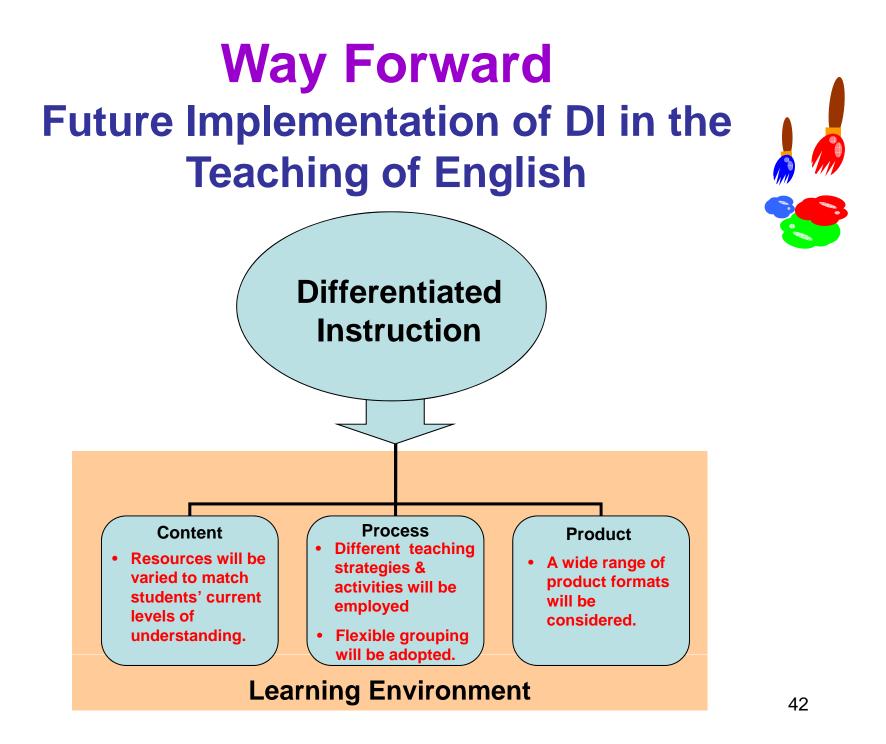


A Year-long Community Programme Against Youth Drug Abuse will be launched to help teenagers stay away from drugs. In this programme

- visits to the Hong Kong Jockey Club Drug InfoCentre (DIC) will be organized for primary and secondary schools
- 'Say No To Drugs' Online Quiz Programme will be organized
- anti-drug publicity leaflets will be distributed to all students in Shatin
- the anti-drug Theme Song "No, No, No" will be produced
- an anti-drug Drama Club will be set up
- \cdot anti-Youth Drug Abuse Talks will be organized for students and parents

Teachers' Reflection on the Phase II Tryouts

- Learning and teaching should be more student-centred and curriculum planning should address what students need to learn instead of what teachers have to teach.
- Teachers should vary their support and guidance in response to student abilities and readiness.
- Purposeful use of grammar knowledge helped students learn and retain the grammar rules better.
- Teachers should have faith in students as they were able to work collaboratively in groups.



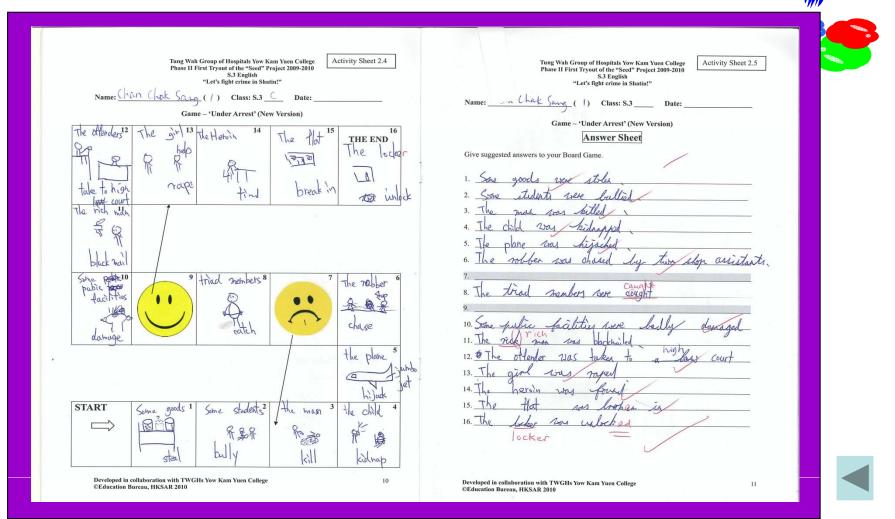
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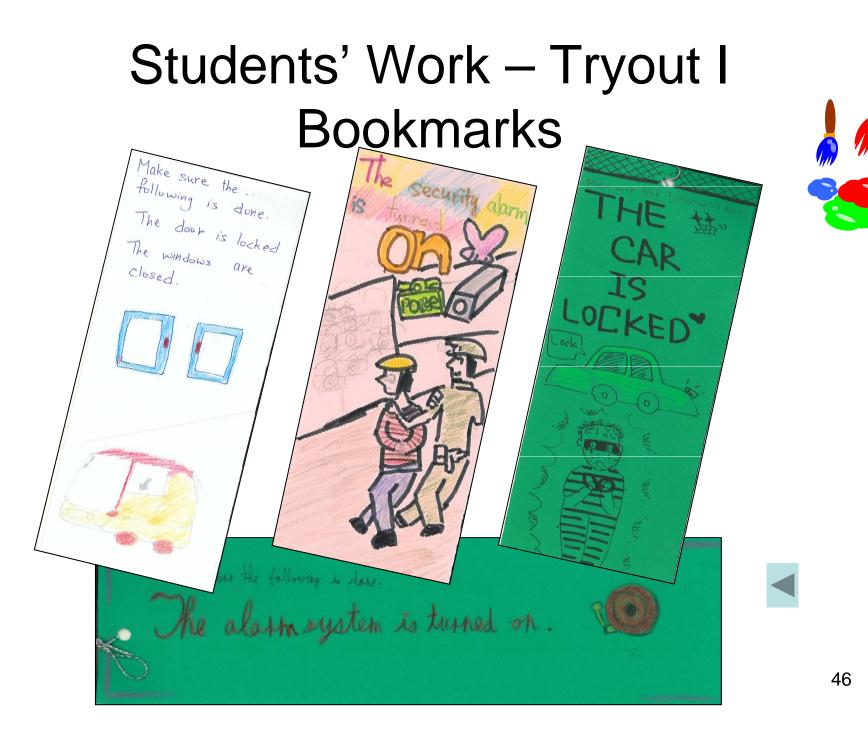


Students' Work – Tryout I Board Game (1)

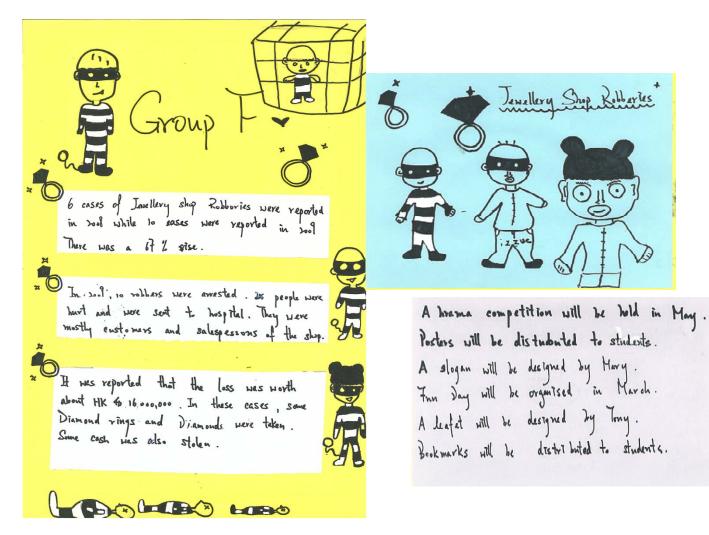
| Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Yow Kam Yuen College | Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Yow Kam Yuen College |
|---|---|
| Phase II First Tryout of the "Seed" Project 2009-2010 | Phase II First Tryont of the "Seed" Project 2009-2010 |
| S.3 English | S.3 English |
| "Let's fight crime in Shatin!" | "Let's fight crime in Shatin!" |
| Name: <u>Jey Wong</u> (3() Class: S.3 <u>C</u> Date: Game - 'Under Arrest' (New Version) The victim ¹² The offender ³ The offender ¹⁵ THE END (charge) (arrest) of an in the offender ¹⁵ THE END (charge) (arrest) of an in the offender ¹⁵ (charge) | Name: Jely Wing (31) Class: S.3 C Date: Game - 'Under Arrest' (New Version) Answer Sheet Give suggested answers to your Board Game. 1. The day was openeed. 2. The safe was openeed. 3. The jenellengs were stolen. 4. The cash was taken. 5. The man was died. hust 6. The windows (were openeed. |
| The evidence (find) START The clar was The safe (open) ² The jewellery ³ The cash ⁴ (take) (take) | 7. 8. The fatprint's were formal. 9. 10. The avidence was formal. 11. The witness was seen. discovered 12. The viction was charged. 13. The offender was charged. 14. The offender was sentenced. 15. The offender was fin joint. 16. The suspect was released released |
| Developed in collaboration with TWGH's Yow Kam Yuen College | Developed in collaboration with TWGHs Yow Kam Yuen College 11 |
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Students' Work – Tryout I Board Game (2)





Students' Work – Tryout I Leaflet (1)





Students' Work - Tryout I Leaflet (2)

-11-

Sha Tin JPC 2010

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2. Postos vill be distributed.

14. slagan will be designed.

Song will be written.

3. Droma competition will be held.

5. For Day will be organised by students

6. "Let's fight crime in shartin"

it New Town Plaza on Sunday, March 2a

A geor-lay community programme a approxy Jewelly the hittories will be landed to help the residents

1. 'Jevelley drop Robberies' burth game will be

JPC.



ewellery

Sho

Kobberies

48

jewellery shop robbenies were 10 cases were while

There was 67% rise.

ewellery shop robberies were e hart and were sent to nostly caretakers and sale

- It was reported that the less was worth about Hk\$ 16,000,000. In these cases, some diamond ring-s and diamond witches were taken.

Students' Work – Tryout II Case Cards

Case 5: (more demanding as Ss have to provide a more comprehensive answer)

I am a Rabbit. I plan to go to Hong Kong with my friend, who is a Sheep. When should we go on the trip? What places should we visit in Hong Kong? What should we buy to bring us more luck? More importantly, what should I pay attention to during my visit?

We are Group "C4" Eva, "C2" Mandy Chan, "C3" Lau Tai Chi, "C" Yung Ka Ying In order not to get injured. You had better not go to high places and near to the sea as water may cause injunes and sideness. Visit temple for example Wong Tai Sin Temple would help. You had Detter go north as so to have lucky. Why not buy floral accessories? It can bring you luck.



Students' Work – Tryout II A 'Lucky' Travel Plan (1)

Day1 morning





You should take the MTR to go to Mongkok. Go to Tai Hing Roast Restaurant to have breakfast.







to Jade Market. Your son was born in the "ger should wear a jade necklace in order to inships with friends. The Monkey wears a good health.



Then we can go shopping in Mongkok flowers market. We have a free time to buy the red flowers. The red flowers can bring good luck to you.

You were born in the year of the Monkey. You should go to the Peak in the morning. You can see the beautiful view of Victoria Harbour. The Monkey wears a jade so as to have a good health.



in the year of Tiger. You and your son had an Park. Both of you can play games happily. wear a jade necklace since it may bring luck r black clothes because black clothes bring bad luck.



Students' Work – Tryout II A 'Lucky' Travel Plan (2)

Cast

Lucky travel plan

Day

In the morning - visiting Lantau

- Yok and your husband can go hiking in the west because the west is good for you. Since the view in Lantall is good. Why not go there?



In the atternoon - visiting the Big Buddha You can eat vegetarian food in the temple of the Big Buddha as it is lucky for you.

Day 2

In the morning - visit Jade market and the jewellary shop in Mongkok You and your husband can buy jade ring and diamond ring because they are lucky for both of you.

In the afternoon - visiting sai Kung AS sectored is good to the health of your husband, why not go to sai kung and try the seatood there?



Jade Market

Scafood in Sai Kung

