

Using Shaun the Sheep in the Intensive Writing Class

These activities form a natural progression of highly structured, receptive activities through open ended, productive activities. The sentences in this group are basic. As the students acquire mastery over basic sentence structure, these sentences could be combined to form more complex constructions. A possible writing theme is suggested for each episode. All of the curriculum that has been designed for this class conforms to the Washington State Writing Standard for ESOL students. The following exercises are predominantly concerned with the bolded items.

WRITING TLO “THEMES”

PLANNING

- A1 Purposes & audiences
- A2 Prior knowledge to support planning
- A3 Generate ideas (pre-writing & brainstorm)
- A4 Identify & organize ideas and information

TEXT GENERATION

- B1 Prior knowledge to convey ideas
- B2 Vocabulary (word choice)**
- B3 Sentence structure**
- B4 Organization of complete text

WRITING CONVENTIONS

- C1 Prior knowledge to produce comprehensible text
- C2 Use tools & resources
- C3 Spelling
- C4 Sentence construction & transitions**
- C5 Word forms
- C6 Capitalization
- C7 Punctuation

REVISION

- D1 Look at own writing
- D2 Getting & giving feedback
- D3 Proof-reading & mechanics

Activity #1

1. Play a segment-just enough to generate a few sentences of description.
2. Pass out individual words on erasable sentence strips. The words are from the three or four sentences that describe what the students have just seen.

3. Teacher reads the first sentence.
4. Students examine their word. If they hear it, they come to the front and put themselves in the proper slot to recreate that sentence.
5. One student reads the sentence aloud. The class identifies the subject/verb/object/prepositional phrases/adjectives/adverbs, etc.
6. Repeat with the next sentence.
7. Play another segment and redo the steps.

Activity #2

1. Play a segment-again, just long enough to generate a few sentences of description.
2. Pass out individual words on erasable sentence strips that comprise only the first sentence.
3. Do not read the sentence. The students who have a word must come to the front and figure out the correct order. The students who are still sitting can offer assistance orally.
4. Emphasize the capital letter and the period as clues. (For a harder version, have the period be on a separate card.)
5. One student reads the sentence aloud. The class decides if it is a good sentence. Teacher can confirm or deny.
6. When the sentence is correct, identify the subject/verb/object/prepositional phrase/adjectives/adverbs etc.
7. Repeat with next sentence.
8. Play another segment and redo the steps.

Activity #3

1. Play a short segment-long enough to generate enough sentences for each table to have a different one.
2. Each table gets a word—a verb, noun, adjective, or adverb from that segment of the video.
3. Students must work together to write a sentence using their word.
4. Teacher can choose to correct at the table, or have students put on board for correction with the whole class.
5. Repeat.

Activity #4

1. Give students a written summary of the entire episode. (These sentences can be simplified versions of what the students worked with in the previous variations.)
2. In groups, students practice combining the short sentences, or adding prepositional phrases, adjectives, or adverbs. (This will probably need to be prefaced with a short lesson on some simple combining techniques: compound subjects, compound verbs, use of and, but, so, etc.)

Activity #5

1. Show the entire episode. Students individually write a detailed summary of what happened, without using their notes from the previous activities.

Activity #6

1. Show students a segment. Students must write the dialogue.

Opening song

It's Shaun the sheep.

It's Shaun the sheep.

He even mucks about with those who cannot bleat.

We've been in mind.

He's one of a kind.

Oh, life's a treat with Shaun the sheep.

He's Shaun the sheep.

He's Shaun the sheep.

He doesn't miss a trick or ever lose a beat.

Perhaps one day.

You'll find a way.

To come and meet with Shaun the sheep.

Come and bleat with Shaun the sheep.

CLOZE

It's Shaun the _____.

_____ Shaun the sheep.

He even mucks about _____ those who cannot bleat.

We've _____ in mind.

He's _____ of a kind.

Oh, _____ a treat with Shaun the sheep.

He's Shaun the _____.

_____ Shaun the sheep.

He doesn't miss a trick or _____ lose a beat.

_____ one day.

You'll _____ a way.
To _____ and meet with Shaun the sheep.
Come and bleat _____ Shaun the sheep.

Sentences from "Off the Baa" (present tense)

Writing theme: Sports you enjoy playing

It is morning on the farm.
A rooster crows.
Shaun, the dog, and the farmer wake up and get ready for the day.
Shaun leads the morning exercise for the sheep.
The dog is drinking coffee.
The farmer is driving his truck.
A duck walks across the road.
The farmer swerves.
He does not want to hit the duck.
A head of lettuce bounces off the truck.
It rolls over to Shaun.
Shaun picks it up, examines it, and tastes it.
He doesn't like the taste.
Three pigs are jumping up and down outside the stone wall.
Shaun starts kicking the lettuce like a soccer ball.
The sheep start playing soccer.
The pigs are excited.
One pig is using a trampoline to jump.
A sheep kicks the lettuce and it disappears into the wool of a fat sheep.
Shaun reaches in and pulls out a red rubber boot, a silver horn, and finally, the head of lettuce.
The sheep continue to kick the ball around.
One sheep cuts down a sign post with a chain saw.
Six sheep make a goal post by climbing on top of each other.
There are three sheep on each side.
The sheep on top hold the post.
The goalie puts on oven mitts.

The dog blows his whistle and flips a coin to see which side goes first.
He will be the referee.
The sheep start a game of soccer.
One side cheats on the first shot so the dog gives them a yellow warning card.
Meanwhile, the pigs are trying to steal the lettuce.
They use a plunger like a bow and arrow.
They catch the dog's nose instead of the lettuce.
The game continues.
One side scores.
On the next play, a sheep kicks the lettuce through a window.
The dog is upset.
The sheep try to hide in a tree.
The dog forces one sheep to go inside the house to get the lettuce.
The sheep goes inside, then kicks the lettuce back out.
He breaks another window.
The game continues.
One big sheep trips Shaun.
The referee gives him a red card.
Shaun gets a penalty kick.
He gets ready.
He narrows his eyes.
The goal keeper narrows his eyes too.
Shaun scores a goal!
The sheep cheer.
The lettuce flies over the wall into the arms of the pigs.
They prepare to eat it.
They grind some pepper on it.
Suddenly a stack of sheep reaches over and grabs the lettuce.
The lettuce flies back and a lamb catches it.
He kicks it high into the air.
One pig and the lamb both leap into the air.
They collide and start falling.
A duck that is flying by swallows the lettuce.
The lamb lands on top of the big, fluffy sheep.
The pig lands in the mud.
The sheep watch the duck fly away.
He is having trouble flying because he has a head of lettuce in his stomach.

The farmer drives up.
His tire goes over a rock and a huge pumpkin flies out of his truck and lands
on top of the dog's head.
The sheep laugh.

Sentences from "Timmy in a Tizzy" (present tense)

Writing themes: A favorite toy or game you had as a child, a favorite possession you now have

It is morning on the farm.

A rooster crows.

Shaun, the dog, and the farmer wake up and get ready for the day.

Shaun leads the morning exercise for the sheep.

The dog blows his whistle.

Timmy, a baby sheep, is having a bad night.

He is screeching at the top of his lungs.

Shaun gives him a small, red, bear.

Timmy stops crying.

He squeezes the bear a few times and falls asleep.

The other sheep go back to sleep, too.

The next morning, Timmy is playing with the bear.

He squeezes it repeatedly.

He drops it when the farmer walks into the yard.
The farmer picks it up and starts squeezing it.
He has an idea.
Timmy looks up at him and bleats.
The farmer puts the bear into his pocket, pats Timmy on the head, and walks away.
Timmy starts to cry.
His mother sticks a pacifier into his mouth, but Timmy spits it out.
Shaun goes to the garbage dump.
He finds an old doll.
It is dirty, and ratty, and there are pieces missing.
He puts it down in front of Timmy.
Timmy looks at it.
The doll's eye pops out and Timmy starts to screech.
Shaun consults the other sheep.
They watch the farmer through the window.
The farmer is trying to interest his cat in the bear.
The cat is sitting in the window.
He is lazy and bored.
The farmer shakes and squeezes the bear in front of the cat's face.
The cat is not amused.
Shaun and some other sheep enter the house through the cat door.
The farmer is busy making tea.
The cat points to the sheep.
The farmer tries the bear again.
The cat is still not amused.
The farmer gives up and throws the bear on the counter.
Shaun is under the table.
He reaches for the bear, but grabs the cat's tail instead.
The cat points to Shaun, but the farmer does not see Shaun.
The sheep work together to reach the bear.
The cat prevents them.
The farmer picks up the bear and takes a nap with it.
The sheep tiptoe into the living room.
Shaun tries to slip it out of the farmer's hands.
The farmer stretches and grabs Shaun and kisses him.
The cat taps the farmer on the head.
The sheep have the bear, and they try and sneak out.

The cat stands in front of the door.
Shaun reaches over and pulls some wool off his companion.
He works it into a ball of yarn.
He dangles it in front of the cat.
The cat gets excited and pounces on it.
The sheep run out through the door.
Shaun brings the bear to Timmy.
Timmy is playing with the old doll.
Shaun exchanges the toys.
Timmy looks at the bear and tosses it away.
He wants the old doll.
Shaun gives it to him.
Timmy hugs it tightly.

Sentences from "Still Life" (present tense)

Writing themes: The importance or value of art, creative activities you do, how you decorate your house

It is morning on the farm.
A rooster crows.
Shaun, the dog, and the farmer wake up and get ready for the day.
Shaun leads the morning exercise for the sheep.
The dog blows his whistle.
The dog is listening to music.
The farmer walks by with an easel and a box of paints.
He sets up his easel.
It keeps falling over.
He keeps adjusting it.
He gets very frustrated.
Then he puts on his hat.
The sheep laugh so he shoos them away.
He starts painting a landscape.
Shaun goes and stands in the field.
He wants to be in the picture.
The farmer asks the dog to position the other sheep in the field.
The sheep get bored.
They amuse themselves by making funny faces and noises.
The dog reprimands them so they stop.
The farmer runs out of white paint.
He goes to get more.

The dog looks at the painting.
He decides to add himself to the picture.
But the paint runs.
He tries to rub it off.
He ruins the painting.
He is desperate.
He asks Shaun to help.
Shaun puts on the farmer's beret.
He picks up the brush and starts painting.
His painting is great!
The baby sheep's mother decides he should get to paint too.
She dunks his head in the paint and adds three blobs to the picture.
It is no longer great.
Then all the other sheep want a turn too.
First they paint the Mona Lisa with a sheep instead of a woman.
Then they do a Picasso version of some sheep.
All the sheep get excited and pile onto the canvas.
The painting looks like a Jackson Pollack.
The farmer returns with his bucket of white paint.
His painting is ruined.
He is very angry.
He jumps up and down, and shouts, and kicks.
The dog and the sheep are embarrassed and sorry.
Then a big, white, limousine drives up.
The passenger in the car offers the farmer a wad of cash for the painting.
The farmer is really happy.
He picks up Timmy, the baby sheep, and kisses him.
He dances around and does handsprings.
Everybody is happy.

Sentences from "Take Away" (past tense)

Writing themes: A memorable meal, your relationship to food, your definition of comfort food and when you eat it,

It was morning on the farm.

A rooster crowed.

Shaun, the dog, and the farmer woke up and got ready for the day.

Shaun led the morning exercise for the sheep.

The dog blew his whistle.

The sheep were milling around.

A pizza delivery boy arrived on his motorcycle.

He carried the pizza past the dog and the sheep.

The pizza smelled delicious.

The farmer paid the boy.

The farmer took the pizza into the house and ate it.

He burped and fell asleep.

The dog and the sheep rubbed their empty stomachs.

Shaun had an idea.

The sheep dismantled the scarecrow.

Several sheep got inside the clothes.

Shaun was on the top.

They created a strange looking scarecrow.

A frog fell out of the scarecrow's hat.

The dog blew his whistle and filled out the order form.

The scarecrow walked to the bus stop.

The frog followed.

An old lady was sitting next to the scarecrow on the bus.

She offered him some candy.

He accidentally knocked the bag of candy on the floor.

She hit him with her purse.

The bus stopped and the scarecrow and the old lady both got off.

She was still hitting him with her purse.

The sheep inside the scarecrow consulted a map.

A woman saw this odd creature with three heads and started to scream.

The scarecrow found the pizza parlor.

All the customers started screaming and ran out.
The kid at the counter took the scarecrow's order.
Back at the farm, the other sheep and the dog waited impatiently.
The pizzas were finally done.
The kid rang up their order.
He held out his hand for some money.
The scarecrow reached into his pocket and pulled out three buttons.
The kid would not accept that for payment.
The scarecrow reached into his pocket again and pulled out a red comb.
The kid shook his head.
Next the scarecrow found a kazoo.
The kid picked it up and blew it, but then he put it down.
He put out his hand again.
The scarecrow pulled the frog out of his pocket.
The kid liked the frog.
He accepted the frog in exchange for the pizzas.
He kissed the frog.
The frog was not happy.
Shaun saw an empty grocery cart in the alley.
Back at the farm, the sheep and the dog were playing checkers.
The scarecrow came over the hill, pushing the cart.
It was filled with pizzas.
Shaun passed out the pizzas.
Everyone had their own.
One sheep ate the box too.
The baby sheep had a tiny pizza.
That night, the farmer came outside to recycle his pizza box.
He saw the scarecrow surrounded by many pizza boxes.
He started screaming and ran into the house.
The sheep laughed.

Sentences from "Who's the Mummy?" (past tense)

Writing themes: An important influence in your life, a story about your mother, your experiences babysitting

It was morning on the farm.

A rooster crowed.

Shaun, the dog, and the farmer woke up and got ready for the day.

Shaun led the morning exercise for the sheep.
The dog blew his whistle.
Shaun was playing soccer. The ball went by the chicken coop.
He went to retrieve it.
He saw four eggs about to hatch.
The chicks hatched and saw Shaun.
They thought he was their mother.
He put a tin bucket over them.
They managed to escape and follow him.
He put them back in the coop.
But they followed him.
He tried to get away.
But they followed him.
The other sheep were perplexed.
Shaun hid in an old trunk, but the chicks found him.
Meanwhile, the hen returned to her nest.
She saw the broken shells.
She was very upset and she went looking for her babies.
The dog was preparing to eat lunch.
The four chicks were in his lunchbox.
He found Shaun in the garbage can and gave him the chicks.
The hen put up a sign and kept looking for her chicks.
That night, the chicks slept with Shaun.
The hen was looking around the farm with a flashlight.
In the morning, the dog counted the sheep, and chicks too.
The hen showed her sign to the bull, but he shook his head.
Shaun put the chicks into a milk can.
Then he put the milk can into a suitcase, locked it, and put the suitcase in the shed.
He returned to the field.
The hen was talking to the dog and the other sheep.
The dog pointed to Shaun.
Shaun ran back to the shed and opened the suitcase.
The chicks were gone.
The chicks were on the road looking at a butterfly.
Shaun saw a car speeding down the road.
He ran into the road and grabbed the chicks.
Then he hugged them.

The dog was trying to comfort the hen.
He pointed to Shaun and the chicks.
The hen ran to her chicks and opened her wings.
But the chicks didn't recognize her.
They wanted to stay with Shaun.
The hen was devastated.
The dog had an idea.
He reached over and pulled a tuft of wool from Shaun.
He made a sheep wool outfit for the hen.
Finally, her chicks nestled up against her.
That night Shaun slept with a hot water bottle.
He didn't have much wool left!

Sentences from "Save the Tree" (past tense)

Writing themes: Strong memories from your childhood, your relationship to the natural world, changing your mind about something-when and why

The farmer woke up.
He was very cold.
He went over to the fireplace, but there were no logs in it.
He went to his woodpile.
It was empty.
The dog was busy lifting weights.
The farmer picked up a saw and called the dog to get in the truck.
Meanwhile, the sheep started to play in the big tree in the yard.
They used one sheep as a trampoline to get into the branches.
Shaun started to play the accordion.

A tire swing and a wooden swing appeared.
The sheep danced around.
Meanwhile, the farmer and the dog were looking for a tree to cut.
The trees they found were too skinny.
They found a better one, but it fell on a bench.
An old woman was sitting on the bench and she went flying.
The farmer caught her and she hit him with her purse.
Back at the farm, the sheep were having a picnic in the tree.
The farmer and the dog kept looking for a tree.
They didn't notice a sign that meant: dangerous dog.
The dog chased them off the property.
Shaun saw the farmer's truck coming down the road.
He told the sheep to get out of the tree.
The sheep returned to their normal activities.
When the farmer got out of his truck, he noticed the big tree on his property.
He got his saw.
Shaun was alarmed.
He quickly made a plan with the other sheep.
The sheep tried to prevent the farmer from approaching the tree.
Finally the dog had to blow his whistle and direct them into their pen.
The sheep tried again.
One sheep folded itself into a ball and rolled over the farmer.
The dog put a pen around that sheep.
The farmer ordered the remaining sheep away from the tree.
Then he fell into a hole the sheep had dug.
The dog put these sheep into the pen.
Three sheep, including Shaun, were still in the tree.
They jumped on top of the farmer.
The dog put them in the pen too.
The sheep watched, aghast, as the farmer started to cut down the tree.
Then the farmer noticed a face carved on the tree and he stopped.
He suddenly remembered when he was a boy.
He remembered playing on a swing, reading under the tree, swinging from the branches.
He thought about the day that he had carved the face into the tree.
The farmer touched the face on the tree.
He realized he could not cut down this tree.

Instead he hugged it.

The sheep were relieved.

The dog was holding the saw, and he began to play music on it.

The farmer continued to hug the tree.
