

From rules to reasons and other little tweaks



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What do we want from materials?

- To be cognitively and affectively engaging
- To give students opportunities for meaningful language use
- Opportunities for feedback on their language use
- To help students make genuine discoveries about language

Potential blocks on this scenario

Comprehension questions



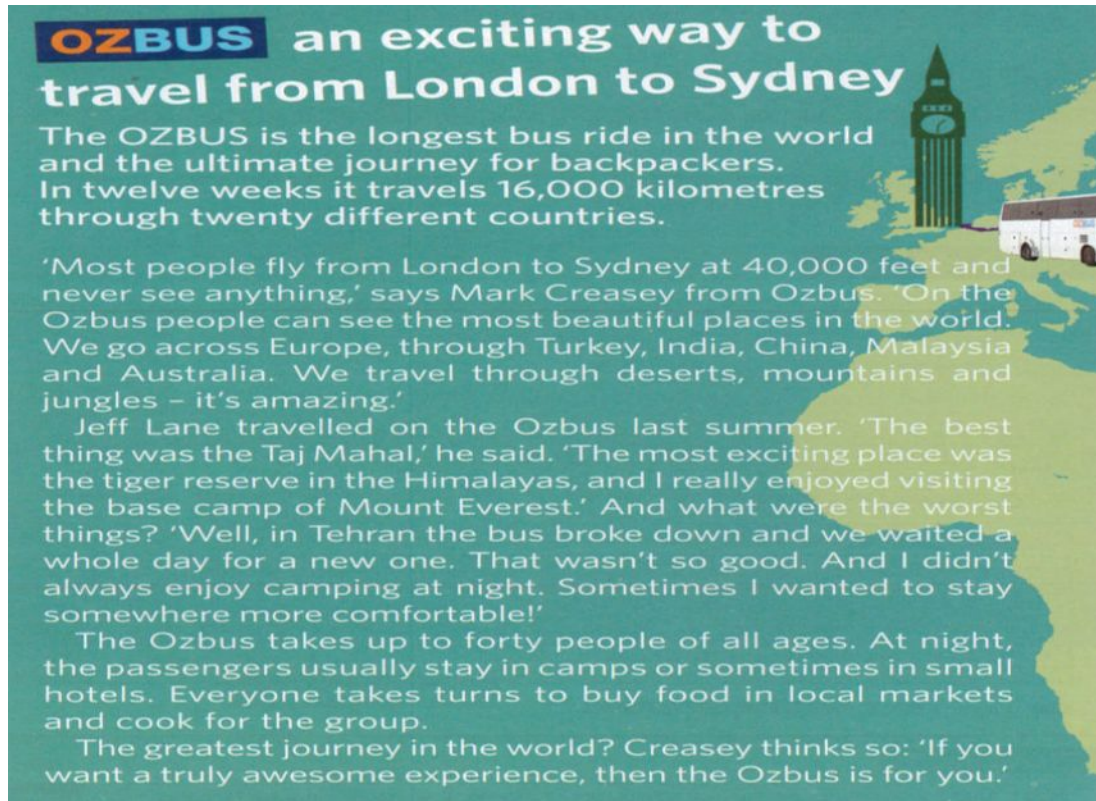
Rule discovery activities/a linear approach



Controlled practice activities



Engaging texts and contexts

An advertisement for Ozbus, featuring a stylized map of the world in shades of green and blue. A white bus with a red stripe is shown traveling along the map's path. A clock tower, resembling Big Ben, is positioned near the top right of the map. The text is in white and yellow, providing information about the longest bus ride in the world.

OZBUS an exciting way to
travel from London to Sydney

The OZBUS is the longest bus ride in the world and the ultimate journey for backpackers. In twelve weeks it travels 16,000 kilometres through twenty different countries.

'Most people fly from London to Sydney at 40,000 feet and never see anything,' says Mark Creasey from Ozbus. 'On the Ozbus people can see the most beautiful places in the world. We go across Europe, through Turkey, India, China, Malaysia and Australia. We travel through deserts, mountains and jungles – it's amazing.'

Jeff Lane travelled on the Ozbus last summer. 'The best thing was the Taj Mahal,' he said. 'The most exciting place was the tiger reserve in the Himalayas, and I really enjoyed visiting the base camp of Mount Everest.' And what were the worst things? 'Well, in Tehran the bus broke down and we waited a whole day for a new one. That wasn't so good. And I didn't always enjoy camping at night. Sometimes I wanted to stay somewhere more comfortable!'

The Ozbus takes up to forty people of all ages. At night, the passengers usually stay in camps or sometimes in small hotels. Everyone takes turns to buy food in local markets and cook for the group.

The greatest journey in the world? Creasey thinks so: 'If you want a truly awesome experience, then the Ozbus is for you.'

- Speakout Elementary (Pearson 2011)

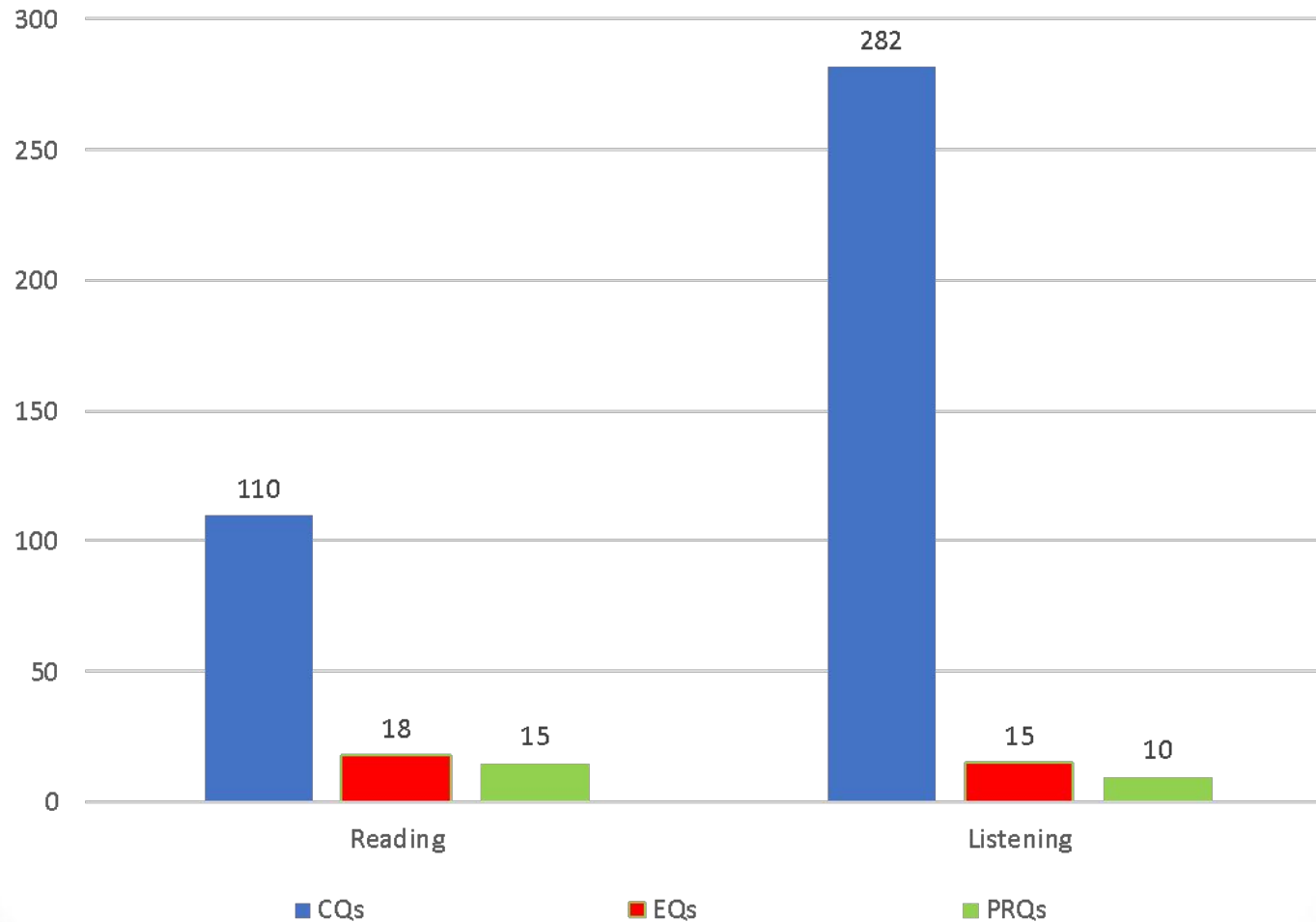


Comprehension questions

- They don't engage students with the content
- They are not particularly cognitively demanding (Freeman 2014; Mishan & Timmis 2015)
- Answers are pre-chosen by the materials writer
- They encourage a testing procedure without exploration of reasons for success or failure (Swan and Walter 2017)
- Can lead to text processing weaknesses (Davoudi & Sadeghi 2015)



Comprehension questions





Comprehension questions

B Read the article again. Are sentences 1–5 true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 The Ozbus travels through twelve countries in twenty weeks.
- 2 Ozbus passengers fly from London to Sydney.
- 3 Jeff Lane took the Ozbus in the summer.
- 4 He liked the Taj Mahal, the tiger reserve and camping.
- 5 Most Ozbus passengers are forty years old.
- 6 They stay in hotels and camps.



Rule discovery

“Knowledge which is gained by one’s own efforts is much more likely to stick and to be used than knowledge which is handed over on a plate” (Willis, D. 2000:8)

“Consciousness-raising tasks cater for discovery learning through problem solving, in accordance with the general principle that what learners can find out for themselves is better remembered than what they are simply told” (Ellis, R. 2003:163)



Rule discovery

GRAMMAR superlatives

4A Complete the sentences with words from the article above.

- 1 The Ozbus is the _____ bus ride in the world.
- 2 People can see the _____ beautiful places in the world.
- 3 The _____ thing was the Taj Mahal.

B Underline other examples of superlatives in the article. Then complete the table below.

short adjectives	great	<u>the greatest</u>	<u>the</u> + adjective + _____
longer adjectives	exciting	_____	_____
irregular adjectives	good bad	_____ _____	



Rule discovery

Use superlatives to talk about the number one thing in a group: *Maria's spelling is **the best in the class**.*

Note: The spelling rules for superlatives are the same as for comparatives.



Controlled practice

- repetition should be meaningful and relevant to the learners and not merely (or entirely) a mechanical parroting of structures (Swain, M. & R. Lapkin 2008)
- Using language productively means going beyond the kind of language display required by many controlled practice activities (Willis, J. 1996)



A linear approach

“It is simply not the case that language learners acquire target items perfectly, one at a time”
(Nunan, 1998:101)

“Teachers may teach one grammar structure at a time, and students may focus on one at a time, but students do not master one at a time before going on to learn another”. (Larsen-Freeman 1997)



Controlled practice

PRACTICE

5A Make questions about the Ozbus trip. Use the prompts below to help.

- 1 What / cold / place you visited?
What was the coldest place you visited?
- 2 What / hot / place?
- 3 What / friendly / place?
- 4 What / long / you travelled in one day?
- 5 What / beautiful / building you saw?
- 6 What / amazing / experience of the journey?



Controlled practice

SPEAKING

6A Work in groups. Plan a long journey to another country. Make a list of five places to visit: the most exciting, the most beautiful, the highest, etc.

B Prepare to tell the class about your journey. Use these phrases:

First we go to ... then we visit the oldest/most famous ... in ...

C Work in pairs and take turns. Tell the class about your journey. Ask and answer questions about each journey.

A: Where do you sleep at night?

B: In small hotels.

D Discuss. Which journey is the most interesting?



The role of our participants

The writer

chooses the answers

The learners

find the answers

The teacher

validates the answers

3 ways of tweaking our practice



Using personal response and evaluative reading/listening tasks



Exploring reasons



Using replication tasks

Personal response questions



C Would you like to go on the Ozbus? Why/Why not?



What the students said

- I don't same people on the long journey
- I like aeroplane and train. I bus not comfortable
- **Edima:** Well.... I don't like that the bathroom is for everyone. It's horrible! (Groans) I need my bathroom only for me. For 3 months? No.
- **Muhammad:** I don't like because.... people sit down the bus, some people sleep... and them (mimics snoring)

Evaluative questions

A married couple with kids



Yes/No?

Why/why not?

A mother and teenage son



Yes/No?

Why/why not?

A single female traveller



Yes/No?

Why/why not?

A retired couple



Yes/No?

Why/why not?

A young couple



Yes/No?

Why/why not?

Your teacher



Yes/No?

Why/why not?



What the students said

- **Johnni:** (Having children on the bus) is too much stress for other.... viajeros
- **Maura:** Is more safe for her (single traveller)
- **Edima:** The teenager want to be alone. Not alone with her mother. He want to be alone with her friends or her phone
- **Maura:** Two friends is the best
- **Johnni:** For me yes because my mother is very funny

From rules to reasons

- Why are we using 'would'?

From rules to reasons

Edima: Gustaria

Teacher: Yes. Yes. Can you explain?

Edima: It's the future that you like to do but (points to head)..... it's in my mind.

Johnni: Is opinion.

From rules to reasons

- The OZ bus is the longest bus ride in the world
- On the OZ bus people can see the most beautiful places in the world
- It travels 16,000 km through twenty countries

From reasons to rules



He is using superlatives to emphasise the good things and persuade the reader. To convince. Advertisement

From rules to reasons

- There are many options. This trip is the best option. It is **unique** (superlatives)
- He's using superlatives to **persuade**/convince the customer
- Present simple is the **itinerary**
- Can is possibility. It explains to customers the travel. Like a sell

A replication task

Create your own adventure from the following

- The world's best cruise
- The best space trip
- The best UK trip
- The best drive/cycle ride in your country

A replication task

Would you like to travel through the Mediterranean sea? Come to 'Lumine Cruise'!

You can enjoy the most luxurious rooms, shows-parties, absolutely delicious food, and the largest swimming pool on the Mediterranean Sea.

Emerging language

- You **can** see the most beautiful sunset
- You **can** also have relaxing massage
- This **will** be an unforgettable experience or your money back
- If you like x, you **must/should** go to....

Emerging language

Yuya: “We can go climbing, diving and bungee –jumping”

Ernesto: “I **wouldn't** do that because I phobia the high places. Is **wouldn't** or **can't**?”

The role of our participants

 The writer chooses the answer

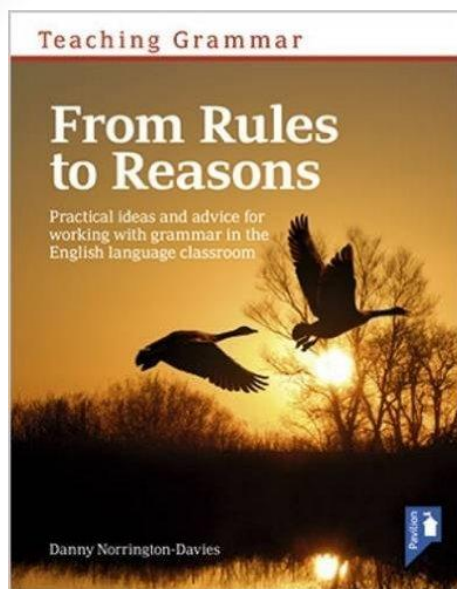
The writer supplies the raw materials

 The learners find the answer

**The learners develop ideas, definitions,
opinions and questions**

 The teacher validates the answer

The teacher works with what emerges



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