

LPF Listening Exemplar

Alberto's New Neighbours

Task Description

Students listened to a short story, divided into three parts, about Alberto and his friend, Mimi, and how they plotted to get rid of their new canine neighbours. After each part, they responded to questions that helped them better understand the plot development, the different characters' personality and the feelings and messages conveyed by the characters' tone and intonation. Students were then asked to provide an alternative ending to the short story based on their understanding of Alberto, Mimi and their new neighbours' character and produce a radio play of the revised story.

Preparation

Before listening to the story, to connect their personal experience with the plot of the story, students imagined that they were about to have their seating plan changed and shared among themselves their thoughts on the following questions:

- What kind of neighbours do you like or dislike?
- How would you handle neighbours you dislike?

Learning Outcomes: ATMs 5-6

ATM 5

Understanding and inferring information, ideas and feelings in a range of simple texts, using and integrating a small range of listening strategies as appropriate

ATM 6

Understanding and inferring information, ideas, feelings and opinions in a range of texts with some degree of complexity, using and integrating a range of listening strategies as appropriate

Questions	When students respond to the questions appropriately, they can:
<p>1. Listen to the following excerpt from the beginning of the story.</p> <div data-bbox="140 837 871 1368" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"><p><i>'Terrible!' he thought. 'How am I going to put up with them?' He went to tell Mimi. Mimi was the friend he lived with.</i></p><p><i>'Have you seen the new neighbours?' he asked her.</i></p><p><i>'No,' she said. 'Who are they?'</i></p><p><i>'Two of them. The ones we don't like. Big and noisy and stupid and smelly. Just like they always are.'</i></p></div> <p>a) Write down two adjectives Alberto used to describe his new neighbours at the beginning of the story.</p> <p><i>(Any two of the following words)</i> <i>big, noisy, smelly, stupid</i></p> <p>b) Based on Alberto's tone, how would you describe Alberto's feeling? Tick the best option.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. <i>displeased</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> B. uncomfortable</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> C. disappointed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> D. disturbed</p>	

<p>c) Based on your response to a) and b), how would you describe Alberto's reaction to his new neighbours? Tick the best option.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. <i>He was annoyed.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> B. He was bored.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> C. He was shocked.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> D. He was terrified.</p>	<p>ATM 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> infer that Alberto was annoyed by the arrival of his new neighbours by using <ul style="list-style-type: none"> semantic clues, e.g. 'noisy', 'stupid' and 'smelly' knowledge of tone and intonation, e.g. his strong dislike for his new neighbours conveyed by the disparaging tone and his slight emphasis on each word
<p>2. Listen to Part One of the story.</p> <p>a) Complete the following timeline by writing down Alberto and Mimi's reactions to their new neighbours' behaviour in the shaded boxes provided.</p> <p><i>Please refer to the Appendix for the answers.</i></p> <p>b) Based on your response to a), describe in your own words how Alberto and Mimi's reaction to their new neighbours changed.</p> <p><i>Alberto and Mimi decided to deal with their new neighbours themselves.</i></p> <p>c) Explain the cause of the change as identified in b).</p> <p><i>They became increasingly annoyed or frustrated by not being able to ignore their new neighbours.</i></p>	<p>ATM 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> follow Alberto and Mimi's escalating annoyance and make connections between his new neighbours' behaviours and their reactions by using syntactic clues, e.g. the use of time adverbials such as 'For a few days', 'One day', 'Two minutes later', 'Over the next few days' to mark the sequence of and causal relationship between the episodes <p>ATM 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> deduce the cause of Alberto and Mimi's escalating annoyance or frustration by understanding that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alberto was shocked to find one of their new neighbours in their garden and that they sent their head of staff to get rid of their new neighbour as a result the action Alberto and Mimi took at the end of Part One of the story, i.e. going into their neighbours' garden and breaking all the flowers, was an indication of their desperation when their milder action was not taken seriously

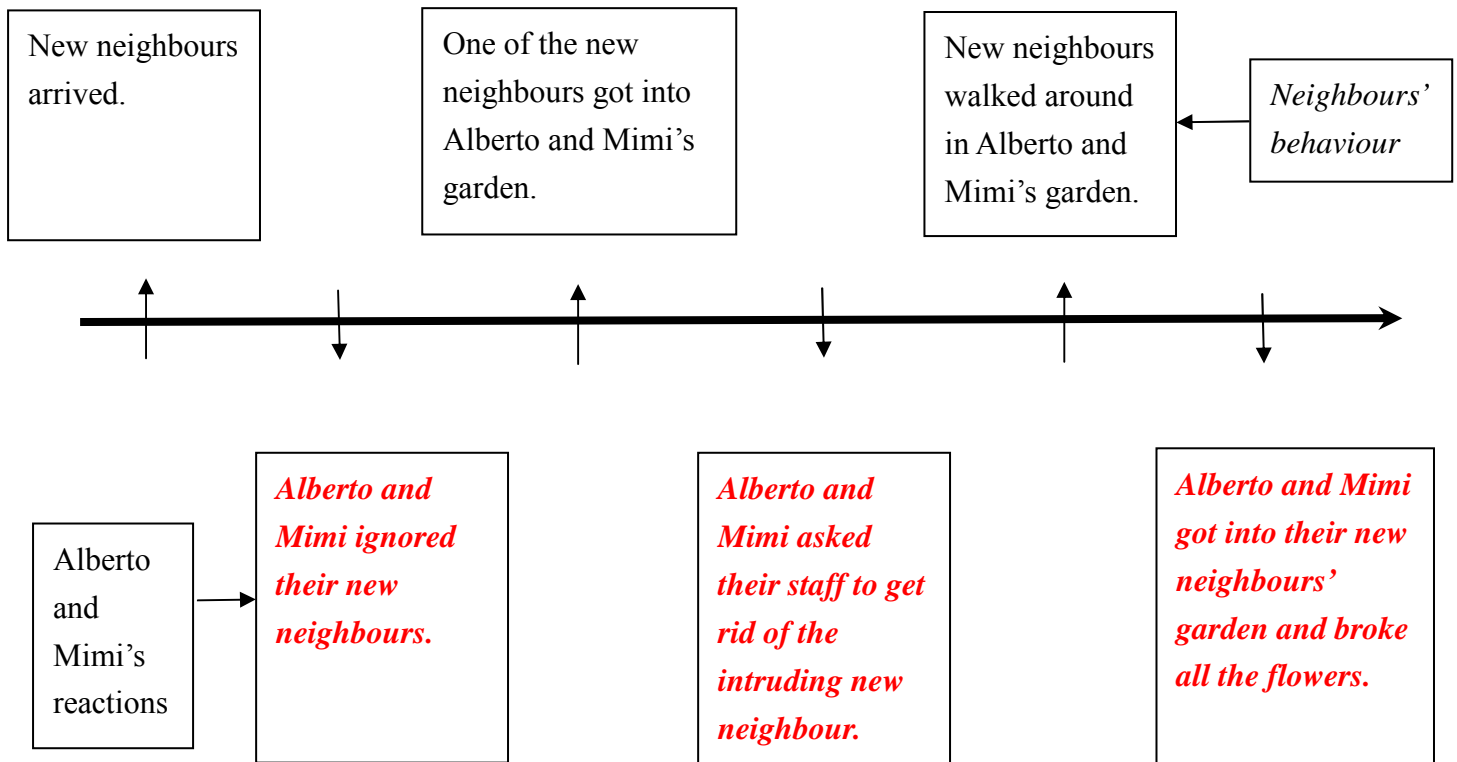
<p>3. Listen to an excerpt from Part Two of the story, in which Alberto talks to one of his new neighbours.</p> <p>a) First, indicate in the squares provided in the transcribed utterances whether they have a rising tone (↑) or a falling tone (↓). Then indicate within the brackets provided the punctuation marks that should be used.</p> <p>‘Owner <input type="checkbox"/> (?)’ said Alberto. ‘You have “owners” <input type="checkbox"/> (?)’</p> <p>b) In the transcribed utterance below, underline the word which Alberto emphasised.</p> <p>‘Oh no!’ replied Alberto. ‘We have <u>staff</u>.’</p> <p>c) What do your responses to a) and b) tell you about how Alberto felt when he found out that his new neighbours had ‘owners’ rather than ‘staff’? Tick the best option.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A. delighted but worried</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> B. disgusted and ashamed</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. <i>surprised but with a sense of superiority</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> D. confused and embarrassed</p>	<p>ATM 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> infer Alberto’s feelings by using <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - semantic clues, i.e. Alberto mentioned that he had staff, not owners - knowledge of tone and intonation, e.g. the use of the rising tone for ‘owner’, which signals his disbelief at this neighbour’s revelation, and the way he emphasised the word ‘staff’
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<p>4. Listen to Part Three of the story. Then answer the questions that follow.</p> <p>a) What exactly did Mimi say about her new neighbours?</p> <p><i>They'll never understand.</i></p> <p>b) Explain in your own words what Mimi thought their new neighbours' problem was.</p> <p><i>Their new neighbours did not understand how to turn their owners into staff.</i></p> <p>c) How did Mimi feel in Part Three of the story? Tick the best option.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A. surprised</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. <i>disappointed</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> C. bored</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> D. angry</p>	<p>ATM 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • follow Alberto and Mimi's unsuccessful attempt to educate their new neighbours by using syntactic clues, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the pronoun 'it' in '... it was no good' refers to the attempt itself - the connective 'but' in 'But it was no good' implies that the attempt did not produce the desired result <p>ATM 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • infer Mimi's feeling of disappointment by using <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - knowledge of tone and intonation, e.g. the slow, flat tone that Mimi used - semantic clues, e.g. 'It's no good... They'll never understand...', which conveys Mimi's admission that her plan to teach her neighbours to boss their owners around and turn them into their staff did not work and that nothing else could be done about the situation
<p>5a) What kind of animals were Alberto, Mimi and their new neighbours?</p> <p><i>Alberto and Mimi were cats whereas their new neighbours were dogs.</i></p> <p>b) Support your response to a) with ONE piece of evidence from the story.</p> <p><i>Alberto and Mimi miaowed and their new neighbours barked.</i></p>	<p>ATM 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deduce that Alberto and Mimi were cats and that their new neighbours were dogs by using <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - semantic clues, e.g. Alberto told their new neighbours not to 'bark', which refers to the noise that dogs make, but 'miaow' instead, which refers to the noise that cats make

Answers to Q.2a

2. Listen to Part One of the story.

a) Complete the following timeline by writing down Alberto and Mimi's reactions to their new neighbours' behaviour in the boxes provided.



Tapescript

Alberto's New Neighbours

By Chris Rose

Part One

Alberto took one look at his new neighbours and knew that his life was going to get more difficult. He watched them arrive in their big, noisy car and watched them get out. There they were, two of them, as big and as noisy as their car, and smelly and stupid as well.

'Terrible!' he thought. 'How am I going to put up with them?' He went to tell Mimi. Mimi was the friend he lived with.

'Have you seen the new neighbours?' he asked her.

'No' she said. 'Who are they?'

'Two of them. The ones we don't like. Big and noisy and stupid and smelly. Just like they always are.'

'Oh, no' said Mimi. 'How awful! Still, I suppose we can just ignore them.'

'I suppose you're right' agreed Alberto. 'We'll just have to ignore them.'

For a few days, then, Alberto and Mimi tried to ignore their new neighbours. When the neighbours went out for a walk, Alberto and Mimi didn't say hello to them. When the neighbours were in their garden, Alberto and Mimi went inside. This was ok for a few days, but, perhaps inevitably, things didn't stay this way...

One day Alberto woke up from his sleep to find one of the neighbours in his garden. 'Mimi!' he shouted. 'Have you seen this? He's in our garden! Look!'

'How terrible' said Mimi. 'Let's call our staff and make sure they get rid of him immediately!'

Mimi went off to call their staff. Two minutes later Alberto and Mimi's head of staff was out in the garden trying to get rid of the unwelcome neighbour.

'Go on!' he shouted. 'Get out of here! Go home!' The neighbour didn't say anything, but gave Alberto and Mimi's head of staff a dirty look, then he went back into his garden. Alberto and Mimi felt better, and then asked their head of staff to prepare their lunch for them.

However, it wasn't enough. Over the next few days Alberto and Mimi often found one or other or both of their new neighbours walking around their own garden. It was terrible. To show how they felt, Alberto and Mimi went into their neighbours' garden, at night, when the neighbours were inside, and broke all the flowers.

Part Two

The next morning one of the neighbours came to talk to Alberto.

'Hey!' he said. 'Hey you!' Alberto ignored him, but he continued talking. 'You came into our garden last night and broke all the flowers!' Alberto didn't say anything, but gave his neighbour a dirty look. 'Now I'm in trouble!' continued his neighbour. 'They think I did it!'

'Who are "they"?' asked Alberto.

'My owners, of course...' replied the neighbour.

'Owners?' said Alberto. 'You have "owners"?'

'Course we do' said his neighbour. 'Don't you?'

'Oh no!' replied Alberto. 'We have staff.'

Alberto went to tell Mimi that the neighbours didn't have staff, but they had owners.

'That's not a surprise' said Mimi. 'That explains everything. That's why they're so noisy and smelly and stupid. We need to make their "owners" become "staff"...'

The next day, Alberto and Mimi were actually very friendly with their new neighbours. They tried to explain how to make their owners become staff.

Part Three

'Listen' said Alberto to them. 'It's very easy. First, understand that the house is your house, not theirs...'

'And second' said Mimi, 'Make sure that you are always clean.'

'Make sure they give you food whenever you want!'

‘Sit on the newspaper while they are reading it!’

‘Sleep as much as possible – on their beds!’

‘And finally, try not to bark, but to miaow instead.’

But it was no good. The neighbours just didn’t understand. After a week, they gave up.

‘It’s no good’ said Mimi. ‘They’ll never understand...’

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