Books and reading ESL lesson plan (A1)

A1 (beginner) · 60 minutes · for English teachers · englishcue.app

Stage	Time
Warm-up	5–10 min
Vocabulary	15 min
Controlled practice	10 min
Grammar focus	10 min
Speaking	15 min
Wrap-up and homework	5 min

1. Warm-up (5–10 min)

- How often do you read for pleasure?
- What do you read: books, news, messages?
- What was your favourite book as a child?

2. Vocabulary (15 min)

Elicit each word before you give it, model the pronunciation, then check meaning with a quick question.

Word	Meaning	Example
read	to look at words and understand them	I read every night.
book	a set of printed pages inside a cover	This book is very good.
page	one side of a sheet of paper in a book	Open your book at page 20.
story	a description of events, real or imagined	My dad tells me a story every night.
writer	a person who writes books or articles	She's a famous writer.
title	the name of a book	What's the title of the book?
cover	the outside of a book	I love the cover of this book.
picture	a drawing or photo	This book has lots of pictures.
library	a place where you can borrow books	I go to the library on Saturdays.
bookstore	a shop that sells books (British English: bookshop)	There's a nice bookstore near my house.

Grammar focus (10 min): Past continuous: I was walking

Last night, at exactly 8 p.m., the lights went out in a whole building. Lucy says: “At eight o’clock I was cooking dinner. My kids were doing their homework, and it was raining outside.” By the end of this lesson you can say what was happening at a moment in the past.

Form	Pattern	Example
Was + -ing	I · he · she · it	I was cooking.
Were + -ing	you · we · they	The kids were playing.
Questions	Was / Were + subject + -ing?	What were you doing?
Use	at a past moment · background	At 8 p.m. it was raining.

Watch for: ~~I was cook at eight.~~ → **I was cooking at eight.**. Was + -ing.

Speaking (15 min): The two-minute book club

The learner presents a book, article or podcast in two minutes: what it is about, why they chose it and who should read it. You ask three questions and decide whether you would read it.

Useful language

- It’s about... / It tells the story of...
- I couldn’t put it down. / I gave up halfway.
- I’d recommend it to anyone who...
- It’s set in...
- a novel · a chapter · a plot · a character
- It made me think about...

Wrap-up and homework (5 min)

- Each learner says the three new words they will remember, and one sentence with each.
- Homework: write 80–120 words about books and reading using at least six words from the lesson and the grammar point.
- Self-study: the A1 books and reading vocabulary page on englishcue.app has a self-correcting quiz with all 21 words.

Books and reading (A1)

Student handout · Name: _____ · Date: _____

A. Word bank

poem · newspaper · long · magazine · easy · comics · dictionary · interesting

B. Complete the sentences

Use a word from the word bank. Then compare with a partner.

1. My son loves _____.
2. Use a _____ for new words.
3. I buy a fashion _____ every month.
4. It's a really _____ book.
5. This book is _____ to read.
6. We learned a _____ at school.
7. This book is very _____.
8. My grandpa reads the _____ every morning.

C. Talk with a partner

Ask and answer. Make notes of one interesting answer to report to the class.

1. Where do you usually read?
2. Do you read in English?
3. Do you prefer paper books or a screen?
4. Who is a famous writer from your country?
5. What are you reading now?

Write

Write 80–120 words about books and reading. Use six words from the lesson.

Answer key

B. Complete the sentences: 1 comics · 2 dictionary · 3 magazine · 4 interesting · 5 easy · 6 poem · 7 long · 8 newspaper