Books and reading ESL lesson plan (B2)

B2 (upper intermediate) · 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)

- Tell me about a book you could not put down.
- What book would you recommend to everyone, and why?
- Have you ever started a book and not finished it?

2. Vocabulary (15 min)

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

Word	Meaning	Example
literature	books and writing considered to have artistic value	She studied English literature.
theme	the main idea or subject of a book	The main theme is loss.
protagonist	the main character in a story	The protagonist is a lonely detective.
antagonist	the character who works against the main character	The antagonist is her own brother.
narrative	a story or a description of events	The narrative jumps between past and present.
unreliable narrator	a narrator whose story you cannot fully believe	The book has a classic unreliable narrator.
foreshadowing	hints in a story about what will happen later	The first chapter is full of foreshadowing.
prose	ordinary written language, not poetry	Her prose is beautifully simple.
anthology	a collection of stories or poems by different writers	The poem appears in a famous anthology.
literary	relating to literature	It won a major literary prize.

Grammar focus (10 min): Narrative tenses: telling a story

Elena writes a travel blog: “It was midnight and it was raining. I was walking back to my hotel when I suddenly realised I had left my bag in the restaurant. I ran back, but the restaurant had closed…” By the end of this lesson you can tell a story using three past tenses.

Form	Pattern	Example
Background	was / were + -ing	It was raining. I was walking home.
Events	past simple, in order	I realised… I ran back…
Earlier	had + participle	I had left my bag.
Sequencers	One day · Suddenly · Then · In the end	Eventually, we found the hotel.

Watch for: ~~I walked home when it started to rain.~~ → **I was walking home when it started to rain.**. Background action in progress: continuous.

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 B2 books and reading vocabulary page on englishcue.app has a self-correcting quiz with all 22 words.

Books and reading (B2)

Student handout · Name: _____ · Date: _____

A. Word bank

evocative · skimmed · ghostwriter · compelling · devoured · thought-provoking · tedious · self-published

B. Complete the sentences

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

1. The memoir was written by a _____.
2. The middle part is _____.
3. Her first novel was _____.
4. I _____ the article.
5. I _____ the whole series in a week.
6. She writes _____ descriptions of the sea.
7. It's a _____ read.
8. The novel is deeply _____.

C. Talk with a partner

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

1. Do you listen to audiobooks or podcasts instead of reading?
2. What did you have to read at school? Did you enjoy it?
3. How do you choose what to read next?
4. Has a book ever changed your mind about something?
5. Would you like to write a book? What about?

Write

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

Answer key

B. Complete the sentences: 1 ghostwriter · 2 tedious · 3 self-published · 4 skimmed · 5 devoured · 6 evocative · 7 compelling · 8 thought-provoking