

Understanding Language: The Same, but Different Teaching Plan

What is this lesson about?

In this lesson pupils will learn:

- How understanding language structures can make learning a new language easier
- How to identify things that vary among different languages
- How to identify things that different languages have in common
- The basic building blocks of a sentence
- How to view language from a historical perspective

Terms needed

- Sentence
- Active
- Passive
- Subject
- Predicate
- Language family

Lesson structure (see accompanying slides)

- Introduction
 - Variation among languages
 - Similarities among languages
- Sentence structure
 - Cues for identifying events and participants
 - Word order
 - Nominal forms
 - Verbal forms
 - Language data
 - English
 - Spanish
 - Irish
 - Russian
 - Other languages (see Activities)
- Subjects and predicates
 - Types of subject
 - Types of predicate
- Sentence structure activity (see Activities)



- Language history
 - Language families
 - Comparative reconstruction
- Conclusion

Activities

- Language variation
 - Ask whether pupils know any languages besides the ones presented here (e.g. home languages)
 - If so, they can try to create sample sentences and the class can compare these with the languages already seen
- Sentence structure
 - Pupils can try to identify subjects, objects, and predicates in the sample sentences given
 - If time permits, they can try creating new sentences to discuss



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