

Bilingual Experience Stories

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You can use “experience Stories”:

- to learn Kurdish
- to teach English
- to teach an illiterate Kurd how to read/write Kurdish

“Experience stories” are meaningful language learning activities that you do with your language helper, friend, or students. After you “**experience**” the activity, you talk about what you did, and then you write down your “**story**.” Then you exercise the story with games and repetition.

You can come up with your own ideas for experience stories, or you can use some of the ideas listed in this document.

The whole idea of “experience stories” is to enjoy doing something with your friend or students and then to get some practice in writing down a story about your activity, and then reading the story and practicing the new vocabulary.

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Experience Stories

This is how to do the Experience Stories:

- (1) Choose an experience (listed below) or make one up.
- (2) Do it with your language helper or friend.
- (3) After you’ve done the experience, ask your helper to tell you what you’ve just done.

(Me çî kir? *What did we do?*)

- (4) As your helper tells you what you did, you write it down.

(Ez dê nivîsim. *I’m going to write it down.*)

- (5) As you write it down, clarify anything that you don’t understand.

(Çawa? Ez tê ne geheştîm. *What was that? I didn’t understand.*)

- (6) When you’ve finished writing everything down, read the whole story back to your helper and ask him to correct any mistakes.

(Ez dê nuke bu te xwînim ve. Zehmet ne bit bêje min heker min xelet nivîsî. *Now I’m going to read it to you again. Please tell me if I wrote something wrong.*)

The categories of Experience Stories listed below are as follows:

Food	Cleaning	Your Own Ideas
Paper Things	Games	
Nature	Shopping	
City Stuff	Crafts	
Clothes	Misc.	

Ideas for Experiences

Food

- Have tea and cookies together.
- Have a meal together.
- Have a picnic (potluck) lunch with some friends.
- Make a sandwich.
- Make Kurdish tea or coffee.
- Make Kurdish cookies.
- Make no-bake chocolate cookies.
- Make zucchini bread.
- Make strawberry shortcake with real whipped cream.
- Make some Kurdish “main dish” food.
- Make ice cream with an electric ice cream maker. Eat it!
- Make yogurt.
- Make Kurdish bread.
- Plan a picnic. Decide who will bring what food and drinks. Decide what to wear.
- Decorate some cupcakes.
- Decorate a birthday cake or cookie.
- Set the table for a meal.
- Go to a restaurant for lunch.
- Go to a Middle Eastern tea house. [for men only]

Paper Things

- Draw, color, or watercolor pictures together.
- Draw something slowly and let your friend guess what it is. Try to guess before the picture is complete.
- Draw a family tree and write in everyone’s name.
- Draw shapes on colored paper and then cut them out.
- Make cards and play “shape” bingo.
- Categorize cut-out shapes by shape, size, color, etc.
- Make and fly paper airplanes.
- Circle your family members’ birthdays or anniversaries on a 12-month calendar.
- Put a picture sentence story together in its correct sequence.
- Write a letter to a friend.
- Translate an English letter or document for your friend into Kurdish.

Nature

- Take a walk.
- Pretend to administer first-aid to a wound.
- Pretend to be a doctor. Ask your “patient” about her allergies.
- Go to a park or somewhere and take pictures.
- Plant some flowers or vegetables.

City Stuff

- Role play making a transaction at the bank.
- Role play exchanging money.
- Role play interviewing for a job.
- Role play taking a taxi.
- Role play returning some pants that are too small.
- Visit a Kurdish neighbor together.
- Go sightseeing. Take pictures.
- Visit a museum. Take pictures.
- Pretend to give someone a haircut at a beauty salon or barber shop.
- Look at a city map and figure out how to get to several places.
- Look at a USA map and choose several cities to visit. Decide which highways you will take.
- Do show ‘n’ tell with items from America or Kurdistan.
- Attend a wedding or other dance together.

Clothes

- Categorize clothes by season, size, color, use, or material.
- Put on a jacket, tennis shoes, hat, scarf, gloves, etc. Take them off.
- Wash some clothes or towels by hand in the sink or bathtub.
- Fold clothes and towels.
- Ask your Kurdish friend to show you their Kurdish party and holiday clothes.
- Talk about jewelry, especially which jewelry is important for Kurds.

Cleaning

- Do some housework like vacuuming, dusting, or cleaning the kitchen.
- Wash the dishes. Put them away.
- Help your friend do some spring cleaning.
- Change the oil in your car.
- Check the fluids in your car. Check the air pressure in the tires.
- Vacuum your car and wash the windows.
- Wash your car.
- Swap ideas of how to remove stains from clothes. (Try this: mix powdered detergent with hydrogen peroxide to a paste. Spread on stain. Leave 24 hours. Launder.)

Games

- Play musical chairs.
- Play “I spy” (in Kurdish).
- Play a card game.
- Play “Jenga,” “Uno,” “Pit,” dominoes, or other board games.
- Do charades. Act out occupations, stories, etc.
- Play soccer, volleyball, football, or another sport.
- Play other (board) games.
- Put a small puzzle together.

Shopping

- Go to a garage sale together. Buy a few things.
- Go grocery shopping.
- Go shopping at a Middle Eastern meat store.
- Go shopping for a housewarming or baby gift.
- Go to a farmer’s market.
- Go to a flea market.
- Go to Wal-Mart or another discount store.
- Go to the local market.
- Deliver some furniture to someone.

Crafts

- Make a craft item for a holiday (Valentines, Easter eggs or baskets, July 4th banner, Thanksgiving fruit basket, Christmas ornaments or wreath).
- Cut out an apron, skirt, dress, *duşek* cover, or pillow case.
- Make a pillow.
- Make a flower arrangement with real or silk flowers.
- Make a bird feeder.
- Make a granny square pot holder.
- Make a bookcase or a book shelf.
- Make a toychest or a shelf for shoes.
- Make a picture frame out of wood or paper.
- Make stationary or note cards with rubber stamps or by gluing pictures onto cardstock.

Misc.

- Look at a picture dictionary and learn some new words in an unfamiliar category.
- Watch a video clip.
- Look at magazines or brochures with lots of pictures.
- Do gestures or make facial expressions.
- Do physical exercises together.
- Look at family pictures. Talk about the people.
- Diaper a doll or baby.
- Wrap a doll or baby up tightly, Kurdish-style.
- Do some vocabulary practice with your cue cards.
- Brush and fix a girl’s hair in a new style.
- Read a story. Act it out.
- Help someone set up a new entertainment center or put together a tricycle or other toy.
- Fix something that’s broken.
- Verbally translate for someone while he makes a short speech.
- Interview someone on some aspect of their culture.

Your Own Ideas

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

pre-class prep:
make flashcards
write Behdini
story on board

Instructions for Teaching Bilingual “Experience Stories” (Kurdish to English)

- T = Teacher; Ss = Students Teach the story in Behdini before you teach it in English.
- Write the Behdini story on the right side of the board before class.
- Introduce the topic of the story. Use real items, pictures, or a personal story in Behdini. In Behdini, elicit Behdini words, phrases, and sentences from students about the topic.
- Read the Behdini story on the board to the students. Then read it to the students sentence by sentence and have students repeat after you.
- Have students read the story from their book as they listen to you and repeat after you.
- Play one or two word games. Choose from the games below or make up your own.
 - Show the class Behdini words written on flash cards and have the class read the cards. Have students underline the card words in their books.
 - Choose two volunteers to come up to the board and point out one or two words each as you say the words.
 - Put students into 2-3 teams. Tell them to stand up if they can read the word on the flashcard that you show. The other team gets a chance to guess if the first team is wrong.
 - Erase some of the words in the story. Read the text and let students tell you the word that is missing. Have them spell the word.
 - Cover the story on the board. Give students a spelling quiz, based on the words in the story.
- Have students read the story in their book in Behdini to a partner.
- Begin the transition to English. Draw vocabulary lines on the board to the left of the story. Write Behdini words and elicit and write English words. Have students write both words in their books in the shaded box in their books.
- Play another team game (optional). Put students into 2-3 teams. Tell them to stand up if they can tell the English meaning of the Behdini word on the flashcard that you show. The other team gets a chance to guess if the first team is wrong. You can reverse the languages, too: show English flashcards and have students guess the Behdini meaning to get a point for their team.
- Review all the vocabulary words quickly, then switch to English and continue the rest of the lesson in English. Teach the same story in English next.
- Write (and say as you write) the story on the board.
- Read the story through. Students listen.
- Read each sentence. Students listen and repeat. Do this step again, if necessary.
- Read the story together with the students. Read it again, if necessary.
- Students copy the story in their book on the left side of the page. Circulate and monitor.
- Read the story together with the students again.
- Play one or two word games. Choose from the games above (gray boxes, left margin).
- Read the story in English (from the board) with the students again, if necessary.
- Finish this section – or finish the entire lesson – this way: Put students into two circles, facing each other. Students read the story they wrote in their book to their circle partner. Call our “Change!” and inner circle moves to the left. Students read the story several times this way.

Word Games
↓

T reads flashcards
Ss listen and repeat

volunteers match cards to board words

Ss read competitively

erase words; Ss spell

spelling quiz

Ss translate competitively

step 1:
introduce the topic

step 2:
T reads the story

step 3:
Ss listen and repeat

step 4:
play word games
(gray boxes, left margin)

step 5:
Ss read to each other

step 6:
elicit and write English glosses for Behdini words

step 7:
optional translation game

step 8:
listen and repeat all vocabulary words

step 9:
write & say the English story

step 10:
Ss listen and repeat

step 11:
play word games

step 12:
read story

step 13:
Ss read to new partners

Sample Experience Story – Teacher's Edition

Experiencing Life - *Time*

35-45 minutes

- Do this exercise in Behdini before you do it in English. Review the general instructions for teaching experience stories on the previous page. Prepare the Behdini and English flashcards.
- Write the Behdini story on the right side of the board before class. Modify the Behdini story to reflect your own information.
- Once class begins, tell the class in Behdini that you are going to talk about time. Elicit words, phrases, and sentences from students about *time* in Behdini.
- Follow the steps for teaching on page T-vi.
- Some suggested Behdini words to have students find in their text are:

hour	evening	dinner	usually
minutes	school	friends	midnight
always	sometimes	get ready	go to bed

- Modify the story below to be true for yourself (and have students make the changes in their books).

Time

I wake up at 6:30 in the morning. It usually takes me an hour to get ready for work. School starts at 9:00 in the morning. I never eat dinner before 7:15 in the evening. I always go to bed before midnight.

G. Experiencing Life – Time

Dem

Dem

Spêdê se’et 6:30 ez ji xew radibim. Her dem se’etekê divêt ez bu şulê xu hazir bikim. Se’et neh qotabxane dest pê dikit. Ji berî se’et heft u çarêkekê êvarî ez ebed şîvê naxwim. Her dem ji berî nîva şevê ez diçim dinivim.



Bilingual (English to Sorani) Experience Story – Teacher’s Edition

Today

This morning I got up at 7 o’clock.

At 9 o’clock I went to the market.

It was hot. I stayed for 2 hours.

At home I fell and Miriam laughed.

Christine came at 1 o’clock and slept.

Teaching steps:

- Read.
- Read and write.
- Listen and repeat (phrases).
- Listen and repeat (sentences).

Options:

- Card game – Ss match words.
- Card game – Ss guess meanings and stand up to be first.
- Card game – show words; Ss translate.
- Erase a few words; read to that point and Ss spell the missing word.
- Students write the story.
- Ss write K-E vocab (5 at a time).
- Listen and repeat words.
- Analyze grammar in story.
- Listen and repeat.
- Ss read to a partner.

Emrro

Em beyanîe se’at hewt hestam.

Se’at no çûm bo bazar.

Gerim bû. Dû se’at le bazar mamewe.

Le malewe, kewtim u Miriam pê kenî.

Kristîn se’at yek hat u nust.

Materials needed:

- clock
- picture of a market
- picture of a home.

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