

Language Learning and Teaching

“**Experience Stories**” are language learning activities that you do with one or more people. You exercise your verbal story-telling skills, writing skills, and reading skills with Experience Stories. This is a fun way to learn another language!

This is how to do the Experience Stories:



Do something.

1. Choose an experience from the suggestions on the next page or make one up.
2. Do the experience with your teacher or student(s).



Talk.

3. Discuss and re-tell your experience. Ask, “What did we do first? What happened next?”



Write.

4. Write the story down one sentence at a time. If necessary, the language teacher can help the student phrase the sentences correctly. Tell your teacher, “I’m going to write it down.”
If you’re teaching a class of language learners who don’t know how to write very well, write the sentences on the board as your students tell you what to write.
If you’re a language learner working with a friend or teacher by yourself, write the story down yourself.
5. As you write the story down, clarify anything that you don’t understand. Say, “What was that? I didn’t understand.”



Read. Correct mistakes.

6. When you’ve finished writing everything down, the student should read the story back to the teacher. Re-write anything that is incorrect. Say, “I’m going to read it to you again. Please tell me if I wrote something wrong.”



Write.

7. If the students have only read what the teacher wrote, they should now copy the story onto their their own paper.



Read.

8. The student reads the story again out loud. The teacher can correct their pronunciation.
9. The teacher calls out words in the story and the student points to the words. The teacher says, “Show me ‘yesterday’ [a word in the story].” or “Where is ‘yesterday’?” The student points to the word in the story.

ABC Spell.

10. When the student is not looking at the story, the teacher calls out words from the story and the student writes the words down for spelling practice. After 5-10 words are written down, the student checks his own work by comparing the words to the words in the story. He should re-write any words that he misspelled.



Read.



Write.



Talk.

11. The student reads the story to a classmate or friend again. He can also copy the story again for further writing practice. He can also re-tell the story without reading it directly.

Food

- ☐ Make tea or coffee. Drink it together.
- ☐ Have a meal together.
- ☐ Have a picnic with some friends.
- ☐ Make a sandwich or some cookies.
- ☐ Make a cake or fruit smoothy together.
- ☐ Plan a picnic.
- ☐ Set the table for a meal.
- ☐ Go to a restaurant for lunch.
- ☐ Go to a tea house or coffee shop.

Paper Things

- ☐ Draw, color, or paint pictures together.
- ☐ Play “Texmîne Bike!” or another word game.
- ☐ Draw a family tree and write in everyone’s name.
- ☐ Make and fly paper airplanes.
- ☐ Circle special dates on a calendar; discuss.
- ☐ Put a picture sentence story together in sequence.
- ☐ Write a letter to a friend.
- ☐ Translate something into English or Kurdish.

Nature

- ☐ Take a walk.
- ☐ Pretend to administer first-aid to a wound.
- ☐ “Be” a doctor. Ask a “patient” about her illness.
- ☐ 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.
- ☐ Return some clothes that are too small.
- ☐ Visit a Kurdish neighbor together.
- ☐ Go sightseeing. Take pictures.
- ☐ Visit a museum. Take pictures.
- ☐ Pretend to give someone a haircut.
- ☐ Look at a city map and figure out how to go to several places.
- ☐ Look at a U.S.A. map and choose several cities to visit. Decide which highways you will take.
- ☐ Attend a wedding or other dance together.

Clothes

- ☐ Organize clothes by season, size, color, etc.
- ☐ Put on a jacket, tennis shoes, etc. Take them off.
- ☐ Play a game - guess the price of the clothes.
- ☐ Ask an international friend to show you their Kurdish party and holiday clothes.

Cleaning

- ☐ Do some housework together.
- ☐ 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 and tire air pressure.
- ☐ Vacuum your car and wash the windows.
- ☐ Wash your car.

Games

- ☐ Play musical chairs.
- ☐ Play “I spy”.
- ☐ Play a card game or a board game.
- ☐ Do charades. Act out occupations, stories, etc.
- ☐ Play soccer, volleyball, football, or another sport.
- ☐ Put a small puzzle together.

Shopping

- ☐ Go to a garage sale together. Buy a few things.
- ☐ Go grocery shopping.
- ☐ Go shopping for a housewarming or baby gift.
- ☐ Go to a farmer’s market.
- ☐ Go to a flea market.
- ☐ Go to a department store.

Crafts

- ☐ Make a craft item for a holiday (Valentines, Easter eggs or baskets, Fourth of July banner, Thanksgiving fruit basket, Christmas ornaments or wreath).
- ☐ Cut out an apron, skirt, dress, or pillow case.
- ☐ Make a pillow, pot holder, or blanket.
- ☐ Make a flower arrangement with real or silk flowers.
- ☐ Make a bird feeder.
- ☐ Make a bookcase or a book shelf.
- ☐ Make a toychest or a shelf for shoes.