My Bike Story

Level: Pre-Int and Up

Objective: Listening and Ordering
Relative Clauses
Story Telling

Procedure: I used a story from one of my trips as it best relates to me, my students, and their country. It may be best to do the same about a trip you took in your students' country, but, if not, you can just change the "I" to "he" in the story and do the activity as follows:

Ask the students if they have traveled around their country much. Asking about adventures they have had or would like to have. You can put the students in pairs and have them discuss either a trip they took in Turkey or debate the different types of transportation available for long trips. Afterwards, you can ask them if they'd ever like to travel around their country by bicycle.

Inform the students that they are going to listen to a story. Put the students in groups and hand out the cut-up pictures. Now inform the students that they will have to put the pictures in the order that they hear them happen in the story. Do the auxiliary vocab. and then put these questions on the board: "Where did the person start his journey?" "How did he travel?" "What's the first picture?" Once everyone is on track, read the first paragraph of the story. Go over the answers to the questions.

Read the story in full. Go over the answers with the students and then read the story a final time so they can check their answers.

Once you've finished, ask them to tell you about the pictures. Hopefully some students will come up with a relative clause structure like, "This is the bike which you biked around the Middle East on". If the students do not produce the desired structure highlight a couple sentences from the text such as: "I had to take a really old boat that I thought would fall apart" or "I hired a child guide who spoke 5 languages." See if they can now replicate it with the other pictures. Have the students write a sentence on the back of each pick using a relative clause.

Now have the students play a game with the pictures. All the pictures are spread out on the table and a student chooses a picture. They then have to make the correct sentence describing the pic that's on the back of the card. The student with the most pics at the end wins. An alternative is to have the students make a sentence like "It's the thing that Nick camped in." and then students have to identify the correct picture.

Follow-ups:

Have the students attempt to reconstruct the story by using the pictures as a guide.

Have the students write about their own story about a trip in Turkey or whatever else.

Have the students tell a similar story the next day by bringing in their own pictures.

Keep the photos with the sentences on the back and use them as flash cards periodically as review.

Vocab. – ruins, a tent, a civilization, a replica, a dam, a shoe shiner, dawn, misfortune, to slaughter, a barbecue, to bury, to be shook up, to oversleep, to hitch a ride

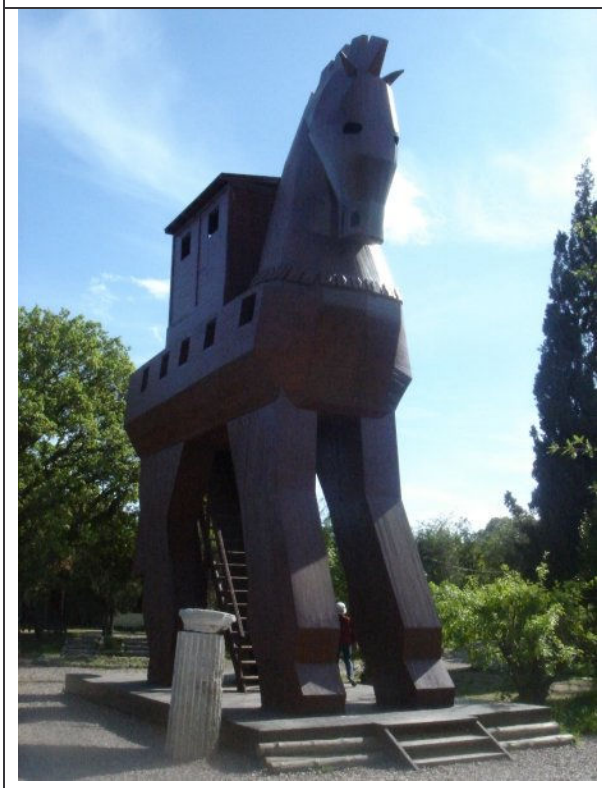
A couple years ago I decided to travel around the Middle East on a bicycle. I started in Istanbul and went all the way to Damascus. I saved up a lot of money, bought a bike, some camping gear, and some clothes and I was off. Every night I would find a place to camp and set up my tent to sleep in. My first touristic stop was the city of Troy. There is nothing there now, but I did see a replica of the Trojan Horse from the famous story. After Troy, It took me about 2 weeks to get to Pergammon and there some misfortune befell me. While I was looking around the ruins of Pergammon, someone stole all my gear off my bike. I was really sad, so I came back to Istanbul and bought everything again. It was expensive, but I didn't want to give up on my dream of biking through the Middle East.

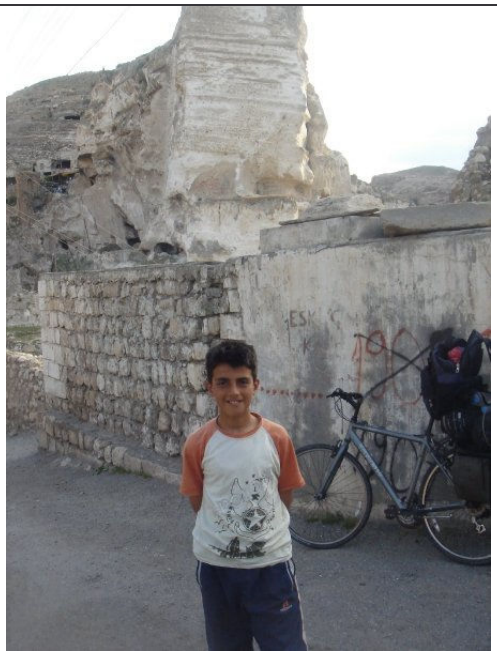
From Istanbul I decided to go to the Southeast, so I bused to Elazığ and biked to Mt. Nemrut from there. At the top of the mountain I saw these giant heads from an ancient civilization. I woke up at dawn just to go see them in the morning light. After Mt. Nemrut, I headed towards Hasankeyf. The ferry was closed on the way because the Turkish government didn't give any tax money to the region that year, so I had to take a really old boat that I thought would fall apart. We put my bike on the front of the boat and crossed the river. The Southeast is much poorer than the rest of Turkey and I felt like I'd gone back in time 100 years. I biked for hours all by myself with no traffic. It was peaceful and lovely. The first city I came to was Siverek and I met a bunch of people who had just slaughtered an animal and were having a barbecue, so I stopped and ate with them. From Siverek I headed to Diyarbakır and then Batman. I didn't make it to Batman before dark, so I ended up staying in a little village just outside of town. It turned out that there was a *madrasah* which is an Islamic religious school in the village. I stayed in the mosque with all the children from the madrasah, but that night the Jandarma came into the village at 1 a.m. and took me away. They never told me why and then after 1 hour they let me go and I had to walk back to the village cause the Jandarma had broken my bike. After I woke up, the villagers helped me fix my bike and then I waved goodbye to everybody and headed on to Hasankeyf.

In Hasankeyf I saw some amazing sights that will sadly be buried under water soon because of the GAP dam project in Turkey. I hired a child guide that spoke 5 languages to show me around. It was really interesting. From the top of a plateau I was able to see a very old bridge that crossed the Euphrates River.

From Hasankeyf I went towards Hatay. On the road out of Hasankeyf, I encountered a sea of sheep on the road. It was crazy. There were so many of them. Also, on the way to Hatay I had my second big accident. A truck hit me on the road to Urfa. Incredibly, I wasn't injured, but my backpack and my saddle bags were torn apart. I had to get them repaired. I was pretty shook up, so I hitched a ride to Gaziantep and had some shoe shiners fix my bags.

All in all, the trip was a rather harrowing experience, but it was an amazing experience and I'm glad I got to do it. From Turkey I headed into Syria, but that's a story for a different day.





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