

Model of a Reading Lesson

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What constitutes Academic language?

5.4 content words per sentence versus 2 content words in social language

Like many organisms studied in this chapter, planarians are hermaphrodites. During sexual reproduction, individual planarians exchange sperm, which travel along special tubes to reach the eggs.

Nominalizations

More use of passive voice

Fertilization ~~occurs internally. The~~
eggs are released in capsules into the water, where they hatch into tiny planarians.

Feng (2008)

More characteristics of academic language

Low-
frequency
vocabulary

A steel roller coaster is a roller coaster that has a track made of steel. Steel coasters are made up of tubular steel track and polyurethane-coated wheels, and can provide a taller, smoother, and faster ride with more inversions than a traditional wooden roller coaster. The fact that fewer supports are needed means steel roller coasters have made a large variety of features possible, such as Loops, Barrel Rolls, Corkscrews, Zero-G Rolls and Beyond 90° Drops.

Adverb
clauses

While a steel roller coaster has many advantages over wooden roller coasters, many people prefer the wooden ones because the ride is rougher and shakier, making it scarier.

Adjective
clauses

Noun
clauses

Complex
comparisons

Example Passage

:

What makes roller coasters so exciting is that they move really, really fast up and down and around in loops. They may seem really different from bumper cars—they move faster and higher, they are scarier, and you have to be a certain height to ride them—but they have some similarities to bumper cars. For example, roller coasters are moved forward using electricity, too. Electricity cranks the mechanism under the tracks that slowly pulls the cars to the top of the first hill. Then, when the cars shoot forward down the hill and everyone is screaming, electricity is still propelling them forward. It takes a lot of electricity to make a roller coaster go so fast. It's really heavy, especially with so many people riding it!

Complex Phrases and Clauses

What makes roller coasters so exciting is that they move really, really fast up and down and around in loops. They may seem really different from bumper cars—they move faster and higher, they are scarier, and you have to be a certain height to ride them—but they have some similarities to bumper cars. For example, roller coasters are moved forward using electricity, too. Electricity cranks the mechanism under the tracks that slowly pulls the cars to the top of the first hill. Then, when the cars shoot forward down the hill and everyone is screaming, electricity is still propelling them forward. It takes a lot of electricity to make a roller coaster go so fast. It's really heavy, especially with so many people riding it!

Technical Vocabulary, Nominalizations and Passives

What makes roller coasters so exciting is that they move really, really fast up and down and **around** in loops. They may seem really different from bumper cars—they move faster and higher, they are scarier, and you have to be a certain height to ride them—but **they have** some similarities to bumper cars. For **example,** roller coasters are moved forward using **electricity,** too. Electricity cranks the mechanism under the tracks that slowly pulls the cars to the top of **the first hill.** Then, when the cars shoot forward down the hill and **everyone is screaming,** electricity is still propelling them forward. It takes a lot of electricity to make a roller coaster go so fast. It's really heavy, especially with so many people riding it!

Building Background Knowledge



Strip Story

Put the pieces of the text in order.

1. That's because sometimes energy from things moving really fast creates not just sound and movement, but heat, too.
2. You can hear them going click-click-click-click as they go up a hill, and then they *roar* as they fly around corners and through loop-di-loops
3. Roller coasters generate energy in other ways too.
4. Like with bumper cars, roller coasters make a lot of noise.
5. That's energy being transferred to the air as the wheels fly over the tracks.
6. And if you could touch the tracks with your hand (you can't because it's dangerous) you would feel that they are very warm.

Strip Story Original

Roller coasters generate energy in other ways too. Like with bumper cars, roller coasters make a lot of noise. You can hear them going click-click-click-click as they go up a hill, and then they *roar* as they fly around corners and through loop-di-loops. That's energy being transferred to the air as the wheels fly over the tracks. And if you could touch the tracks with your hand (you can't because it's dangerous) you would feel that they are very warm. That's because sometimes energy from things moving really fast creates not just sound and movement, but heat, too.

Working with phrases and clauses

If you touch the track, _____

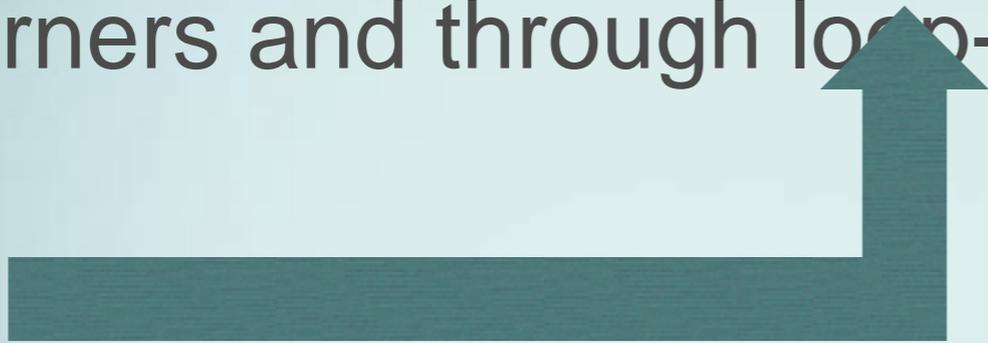
Roller coasters go click-click-click when _____

When a roller coaster _____, energy is being transferred _____.

Roller coasters are exciting because _____

Working with referencing

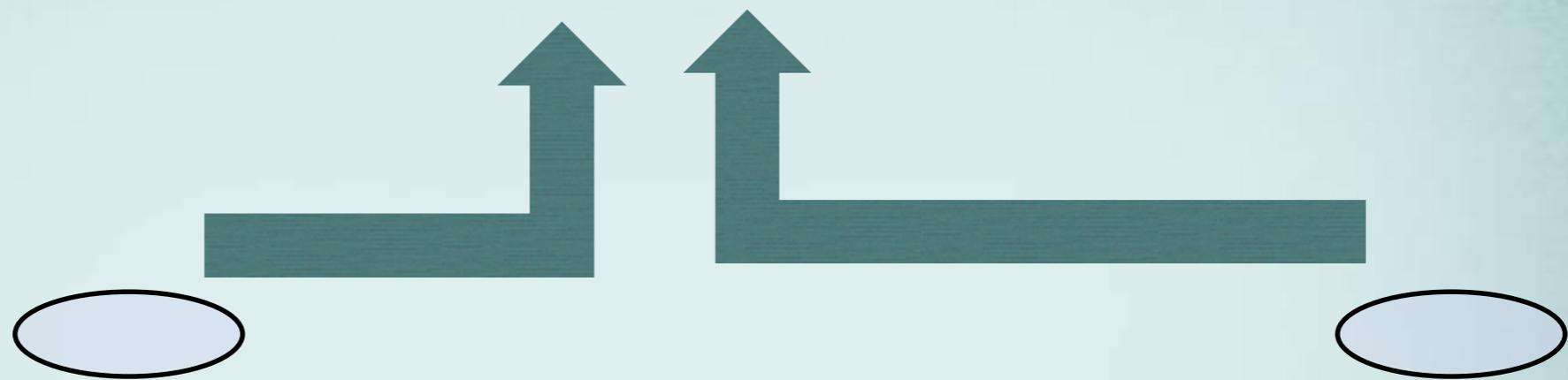
You can hear them going click-click-click-click as they go up a hill, and then they *roar* as they fly around corners and through loop-di-loops.



That's energy being transferred to the air as the wheels fly over the tracks.

More referencing

Like with bumper cars, roller coasters make a lot of noise.



You can hear them going click-click-click-click as they go up a hill.

Working with Clauses

You can hear them going click-click-click-click as they go up a hill, and then they *roar* as they fly around corners and through loop-di-loops

- Students create timelines of their day and write sentences:
“I _____ as I _____, and then I _____”

- Students look at other texts to identify other clauses with time relationships- as, then, when, before, after, etc.

If conditionals

If you could touch the tracks with your hand, you would feel that they are very warm.

If you put water into the freezer, it turns into ice.
(scientific truth or habitual).

If you study for the test, you will do better. (future real)

If people could fly, we wouldn't need cars. (present unreal)

If he had studied harder, he would have passed. (past unreal)

Writing Assignment

Quickwrite: 10 minutes.

If you go to an amusement park, what will you do?

If you ride a roller coaster, what will you feel?

If you had a million dollars, what would you do?

Research assignment: Look up a specific roller coaster. Where is it? What is it made of? What makes it different?

Students do research and take notes. Then they leave the source texts and write from their notes.

Conclusions

- In a content based class, content comes first.
- Language comes from the content material.
- Students should be reading at a higher level than they produce.
- Content teachers and language teachers need to work together.



Thank you for coming!

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This slide show is available at
<https://umdrive.memphis.edu/g-appliedlinguistics/Public/ModelingReading.ppt>