Low-Intermediate Level Paraphrasing Activity 1

Step 1: The teacher reads a paragraph-long story or news article.

The Cell Phone

This is a true story about a very hungry dog.

Dogs often cause problems. Rachel received a cell phone for Christmas. She opened the present and put the cell phone under the Christmas tree. Later, she tried to find the cell phone, but it was gone. She looked everywhere for it. Finally, she called the telephone company and got the phone number for the cell phone. Rachel dialed the number, and she heard the phone ringing from her sleeping dog, Charlie. However, Charlie was not lying on top of the phone. Actually, he ate the phone. Rachel quickly took Charlie to the vet. (A vet is an animal doctor.) The vet decided not to operate. He told her to wait 24 hours. In 24 hours, the phone passed out of Charlie's system naturally. This dog caused a big expense for Rachel.

Step 2: Students fill in the blanks of a paraphrase of the paragraph using words from a box above the paraphrase. After a few minutes, the teacher reads it again while students look at him/her. Then they continue the paraphrase. Then they check their answers.

Note the teacher: I put the Exercise on a new page to make it easier for you to print out for your students.

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Exercise 1

Choose the words from the box to complete the paragraph below.

and got the phone	present and put	for Rachel
system naturally	cause problems	on top of
not to operate	but it was gone	number, and she heard

The Cell Phone *(from a news article)*

Dogs often_____. Rachel received a cell phone for Christmas. She opened the_____the cell phone under the Christmas tree. Later, she tried to find the cell phone,_____. She looked everywhere for it. Finally, she called the telephone company _____ _____number for the cell phone. Rachel dialed the _____ the phone ringing from her sleeping dog, Charlie. However, Charlie was not lying _____the phone. Actually, he ate the phone. Rachel quickly took Charlie to the vet. (A vet is an animal doctor.) The vet decided_____. He told her to wait 24 hours. In 24 hours, the phone passed out of Charlie's _____ _____. This dog caused a big expense_____.

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Exercise 2

1) Read the paragraph, “The Cell Phone,” in Exercise 1 again
2) W*ithout looking at it again,* write the ideas from the paragraph. Use your own words and style.
3) The key words in the box below might help you remember the details. You can use these words if you want to.

(This is not a memory exercise. Write as much as you can remember, but don’t worry if you do not remember everything. The more you write, the more your teacher can help you with your writing skills.)

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Exercise 2

1) Read the paragraph, "The Cell Phone," in Exercise 1 on page 3.
2) W*ithout looking at it again,* write the ideas from the paragraph. Use your own words and style.

3) The key words in the box below might help you remember the details. You can use these words if you want to.

(This is not a memory exercise. Write as much as you can remember, but don't worry if you do not remember everything. The more you write, the more your teacher can help you with your writing skills.)

The Cell Phone *(from a news article)*

(Write on other paper.)

Key Words to Help You Write

- problems
- cell phone
- Christmas tree
- was gone
- telephone company
- her sleeping dog, Charlie
- vet, an animal doctor
- not to operate
- 24 hours
- passed out of Charlie's system
- Rachel

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