

Let's Teach English

UNIT 01: Learning Strategies

Theme of Unit: Family

Teaching Topic: Teaching learning strategies

Learning Strategy: Summarize

The *Let's Teach English* video series offers free online training for English language educators worldwide. It is based on the *Women Teaching Women English* text for adult, beginning level learners. Voice of America and the University of Oregon are partners on this project.

We hope you will join us and . . . *Let's Teach English* together!

Video Transcript

In this lesson, a teacher presents a learning strategy. Before this class, the teacher introduced the unit and the students practiced saying the new words and wrote them on their family trees.

Teacher: Good morning. Who is ready to talk about your family?

Julia: I am ready.

Teacher: Great. Class, let's listen to Julia. Then I will summarize.

Jamie: What does that mean?

Teacher: First, I will listen to Julia. Then I will repeat her words in a shorter way. Summarizing helps you understand and remember better. Julia, tell us something about each person in your family tree.

Julia: There are three women in my house: my mother, Leah; my sister, Stella, and me. My sister is pregnant. She also has a son: Eric. I am his aunt. My mother is his grandmother.

Teacher: Okay. Now to summarize.

Modeling the Strategy

Afterwards, the teacher models the strategy, *summarize*, by giving a summary of the student's description. She explains that summarizing helps in learning English.

Teacher: You have three women in your house. Your sister is pregnant and she has a son. You are an aunt. Your mother is a grandmother. Learning to summarize is helpful for learning English. Let's stand up and make a line by your birthdays.

Pairing Students at Random

The teacher uses a technique to randomly assign partners. Students must talk with each other to line up in order. This gives more variety to pair work and promotes active communication between students.

Teacher: January at the front; December at the end.

(Students ask each other about their birthdays.)

Mimi: I'm January.

Julia: February.

Jamie: May.

Maryam: December.

Teacher: Okay, now bring the line around. *(Students walk to face each other.)* The person across from you is your partner. *(Teacher gestures to one line.)* This group – tell about your families. *(Teacher gestures to the other line.)* This group – listen and take notes. Please have a seat.

Partners, listen carefully. I'll ask you to summarize for your partner. Take notes on your paper. Raise your hand when you're finished. *(Students sit in pairs and show their charts and talk about their family members. One student in each pair is taking notes.)*

Maryam: My brother is Vahab.

Mimi: Vahab is your brother.

Julia: Father, Peter; Mother, Eva.

Jamie: Right.

Mimi: Okay, I think we're done. *(Student raises hand to show her group's work is finished.)*

Teacher: Now hand the family tree to your partner. Listeners, look for someone who has no paper. Tell them about your partner's family.

Practicing the Strategy

After the students talk in pairs, they *summarize* what they learned for a new partner. This creates a communicative situation in which the student who is summarizing has information that the listening student does not have.

Mimi: This is Maryam's family. She has a dad and a mom. And then she has a brother, Vahab. And then her sister, Bahar.

Jamie: How old is she?

Mimi: She's six years older.

(Students discuss the others' family trees.)

Summary

This activity gives each student time to work actively with two other students while practicing *summarizing*.

Next time, join us for Unit 2. We will teach listening skills and cooperative learning.

New Words

aunt – *n.* the sister of your father or mother, or the wife of your uncle

brother – *n.* a boy or man with one or both of the same parents as you

brother-in-law – *n.* the brother of your husband or wife, or husband of your sister

cousin – *n.* a child of your uncle or aunt

daughter – *n.* a female child

daughter-in-law – *n.* the wife of your son

father – *n.* a male parent

granddaughter – *n.* a daughter of your son or daughter

grandfather – *n.* the father of your father or mother

grandmother – *n.* the mother of your father or mother

grandson – *n.* a son of your son or daughter

husband – *n.* a married man

mother – *n.* a female parent

nephew – *n.* a son of your brother or sister

niece – *n.* a daughter of your brother or sister

sister – *n.* a girl or woman with one or both of the same parents as you

sister-in-law – *n.* the sister of your husband or wife, or wife of your brother

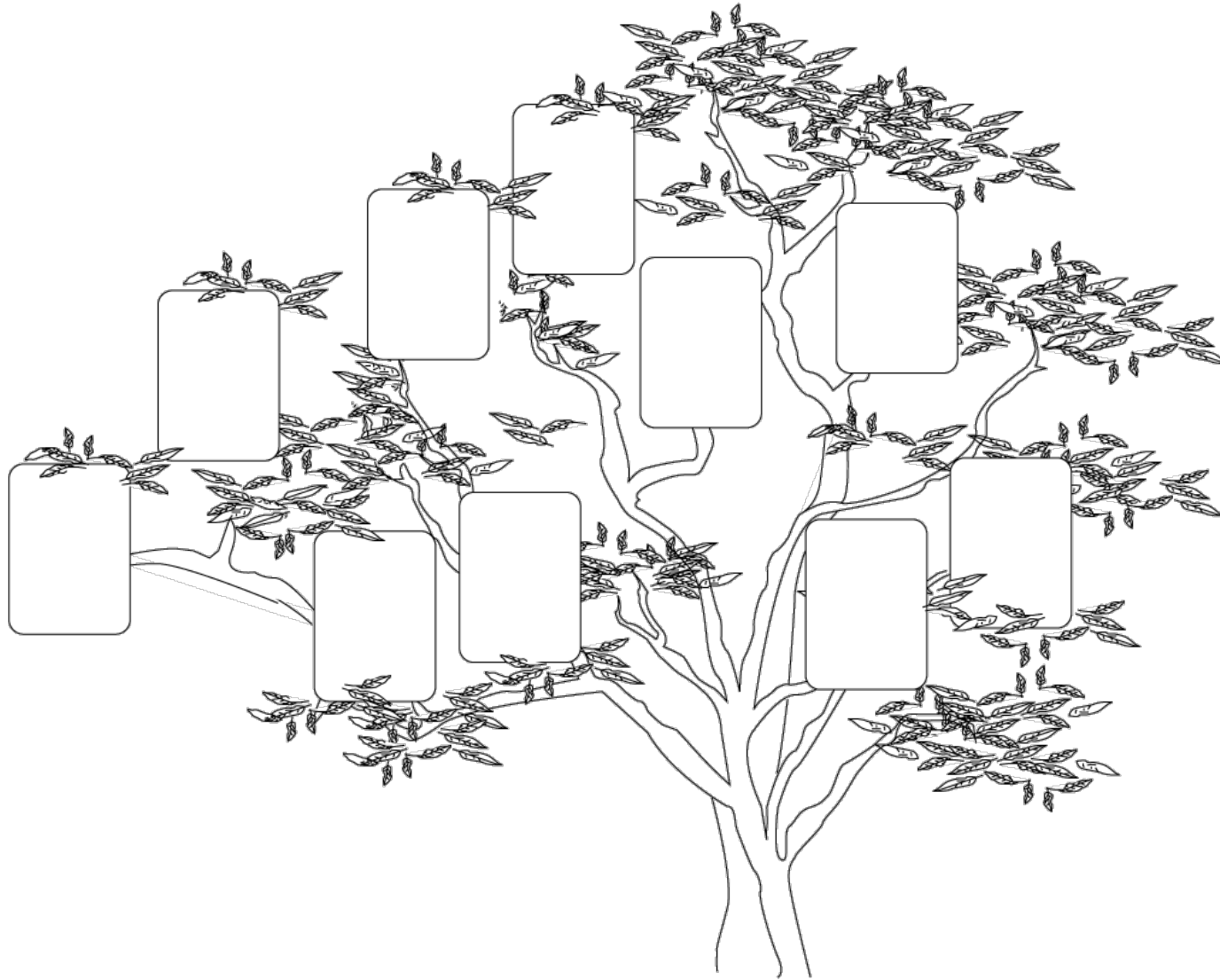
son – *n.* a male child

son-in-law – *n.* the husband of your daughter

uncle – *n.* the brother of your father or mother, or the husband of your aunt

wife – *n.* a married woman

Family Tree



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