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**Next...**

Focus: Speaking

Level: A2 upwards

Key Language: cohesion and coherence  
(colligation, collocation, reference)



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# Aims

To develop fluency skills and build confidence

To practise lexical and grammatical cohesion

To practise textual coherence

# Procedure

1. Select a story that you know well enough to be able to tell the class.
2. Tell students that they are going to help to tell the story. Whenever you stop they have to suggest how to continue, providing vocabulary, sentences or ideas for plot development.
3. Tell them they will have to listen very carefully so they can make suggestions. These suggestions should follow logically from what they have just heard and help to move the story forward.
4. Tell your story up to a point where students can make suggestions about how to continue.
5. Invite as many suggestions as possible and accept one that fits well and which you can use either to get your original story back on track or to take the story in a different direction which you feel able to develop.
6. Signal (e.g. And in the end...) when the story is near its conclusion so that students can provide an appropriate ending.

**Tip 1:** You could get students to think of vocabulary relevant to the story before beginning. This may help them to think of suggestions and to keep the story from straying too far from the original narrative.

**Tip 2:** You can control the unpredictability of the activity to some extent by choosing the points where you invite students' contributions. You might focus on points where the choice is grammatical, lexical, or narrative.

**Tip 3:** Students can be asked to produce a collaborative written version of the story, or do this individually as a homework assignment.

# Next...