

Totally True 1, Unit 16: “Man Leaves Wife in the Atlantic”

Here are two exercises that worked well with this unit. The first is a worksheet to pre-teach some of the vocabulary and the second is a pantomime activity to reinforce the vocabulary and the details of the story.

1. Before starting the unit, give each student a copy of the worksheet. They can do it individually, or in pairs. They may need dictionaries to check the spelling of the words. Check the answers together.
2. Teach the unit in the way you prefer.
3. After the story has been read and understood, make groups of four and give each a set of cut-up pantomime cards. They should be shuffled and put face down in a stack on the table. They should have their textbooks open to the unit 16 story (p. 70) at this point. The teacher demonstrates by picking up a card and pantomiming the sentence. I usually do “They were in a race with 35 other rowboats.” The students look at the story and guess which sentence I’m pantomiming.
4. In their groups, the students take turns picking up a paper and pantomiming the action. Others look at their story and say the sentence they think is being pantomimed. The correct guesser receives the card. At the end, the one with the most cards, the “best guesser”, is the winner.
5. Do a second round, but this time have the students all close their books.

Have fun!