

Adventures on an Organic Farm



Level: Intermediate

Topic: On the Road

Key vocabulary: Bilingual lists in PDF and boxes (Teachers can download this material from the online version of the magazine.)

Preparation: You will need a copy of the article for each student.

Objective: Students read the experience of a woman working as a volunteer on an organic farm in England. Concepts emphasized are the value of hard work and respect for the differences.

Warm up

Students at this level know what a farm is but you may want to teach them the difference between a regular farm and an organic farm.

Explain to them that on an Organic Farm, people avoid the use of any chemicals which do any harm to the environment or wildlife. Some interesting facts to share with students:

- Organic farmers use manures (animal feces and plant material, often straw)
- The way these foods are produced causes benefits to the environment such as increasing the quality of soil and reducing energy use.
- Organic farmers do not use pesticides.

Write the title of the article on the board 'Adventures on an organic farm'. Ask students what they can say from reading the title. What is the first thing that comes to their minds when they read the word 'adventures' and what type of adventures they think they are going to read about.

Main Activity

1. Give each student a photocopy of the article.
2. Allow the students to read in pairs and do cooperative work, such as helping each other with vocabulary they don't know. Encourage them to guess meaning from context clues before using a dictionary or asking you.
3. You can always prepare comprehension activities and hand them out to students while they are reading.
4. This article is great for reviewing past simple and past perfect if you want to do so.
5. Explain to students that when people speak a language they often speak with a particular accent, but they also have different ways of saying something. Ask students to find in the text the paragraph in which the writer mentions some of her language problems.
6. Speaking. Answering questions.
 - How did Jane get in touch with her host family in England?
 - How long was she planning to stay in England?
 - How long did she actually stay with her English host family?
 - Why did she stay longer than what she had planned?
 - Do you think she will go back to England to visit? Why?
 - What are some of the activities she did on the farm?
 - Use your own words to describe the incident with the dog.

Follow up

Tell your students that it is quite obvious that Jane had a great experience doing some voluntary work as part of the WWOOF. She also enjoyed her time working on the farm as much as she liked her host family.

Point out that having a complete stranger in your house can be a little risky.

Divide your class in groups of three or four students.

Tell some groups that they have to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of being a voluntary worker in an entirely different country living with a family they have never met before.

Ask the other groups to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of being the host family to a person who comes from a different country and who is a total stranger in your house.

Encourage your students to debate about the subject and respect other people's opinions.

In www.teatime-mag.com your students can read the articles that also feature attractive and motivating designs, as well as pictures that make reading easier and more appealing.

They can also listen to the articles as they read and download the audio version in mp3 format for free.