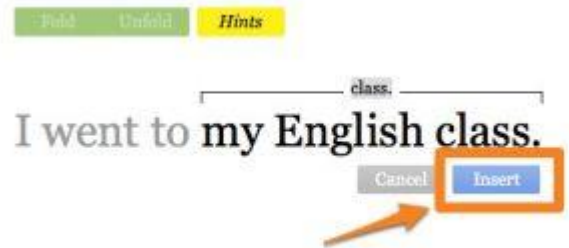


Using 'Telescopic Text' to develop the writing of more advanced EAL learners (AELs) and non-EAL peers

Introduction

Telescopic Texts are interactive texts that are initially expressed very simply yet allow the 'reader' to expand on the complexity of words and phrases to make the text richer and more extensive. Highlighted words and phrases within the text can be clicked to reveal more detail.



This online tool is perfect for modelling the process of editing a simple text to produce richer and more extensive prose within any curriculum area ('Read' element). It also enables pupils to learn how to do this by creating their own Telescopic Texts ('Write' element).

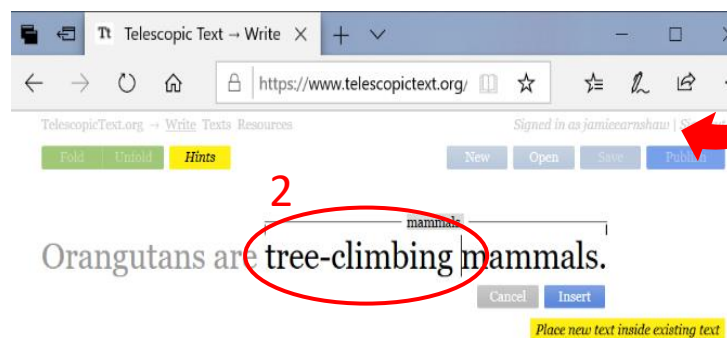
Teachers can prepare model texts using this tool for pupils to work through individually or to show to larger groups/whole classes on an IWB. Different versions of similar texts could be prepared to meet the needs of more advanced EAL learners at different stages of Proficiency in English (PiE) e.g. those at C, D or E in 'Reading & Viewing' on the Bell Foundation EAL Proficiency Scale.

Depending on PiE in writing, pupils could be asked to use the tool to create Telescopic Texts for their peers or even a younger audience.

Here is an example Telescopic Text about 'Orangutans': <https://www.telescopictext.org/text/ox2ABChLXtzEw>

'Writing' the text (based on the 'Orangutan' example)

- 1 Select the word you want to expand – in this case the word 'are'

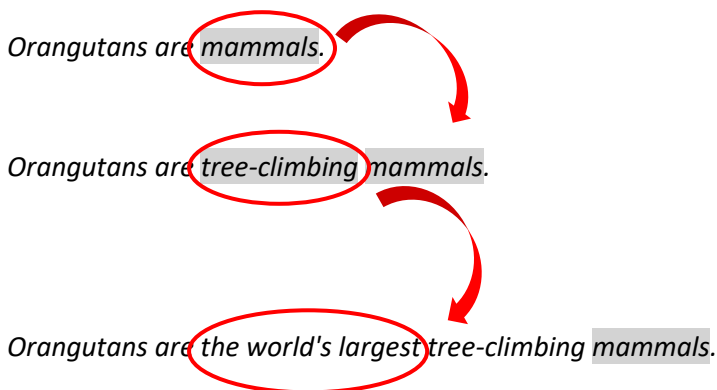


- 2 Type in the word or words you want to appear when the original word 'are' is clicked by the user – in this case the word 'tree-climbing'

Be aware that one limitation of the tool is that it appears impossible to include different paragraphs in the same Telescopic Text.

'Reading' a text (based on the 'Orangutan' example)

When 'reading' a Telescopic Text the user needs to click the grey highlighted words to reveal new text (illustrated below showing the first two selections)



Finished text:

Orangutans are the world's largest tree-climbing mammals. But the number of orangutans living in forests in Indonesia and Malaysia is rapidly decreasing for a number of reasons. This is putting the future of these great apes in danger. We strongly believe it is time for communities across the world to save the orangutans from extinction. Loss of habitat is the greatest threat to orangutans. Farmers clear huge areas of forests to grow crops, particularly palm oil - a product that is commonly found in many supermarket goods around the world such as chocolate biscuits and deodorant. Today, experts state that more than 50% of orangutans live outside of protected forest areas on land owned by mining companies. Orangutans are now an endangered species that need protection. In addition, orangutans are hunted in some areas for food. Lastly, fire is also a major threat to orangutans. In 1997, a fierce forest fire in an area of Indonesia killed up to 8,000 orangutans. We firmly believe that we should do all we can to protect these precious orangutans.

Ideas for use with AELs (and non-EAL peers)

- Provide Telescopic Texts that focus on a specific aspect of grammar e.g. punctuation, tense, imperative verbs, adjectives, fronted adverbials, language that shows agreement or for countering arguments etc.
- Texts could focus on a specific paragraph such as the introduction or a conclusion
- Depending on the content area, text-type and the PiE of the 'reader/writer' it could be a good idea to provide a list of key vocabulary or other grammatical expressions. During 'reading' a user could tick these off as they are revealed in the text. Lists will also help pupils to 'write' texts that use the specific language that you want them to learn
- Telescopic Texts created by pupils could be shared for peer-assessment purposes. They could also be constructed and shared for a younger audience.

Links

Telescopic text 'Write': <https://www.telescopictext.org/write>

How to use the 'writing' tools: <https://www.telescopictext.org/resources/how-to-use-the-writing-tools>