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- Author Bio (up to 50 words): I am a Secondary School English Teacher and Teacher Trainer. I'm the Head of the English Department at my school where I'm implementing the new educational system set in Spain in my Department. I frequently organise and give talks to teachers for the University, the educational authorities or different publishers. I have also published several articles and I'm currently working on my PhD Thesis on training teachers on the resources the web offers for TEFL.
- Title: News hunt
- Subtitle (up to 12 words): Searching electronic newspapers.
- Overview: This is a session for reading, browsing, using a few of the tools a Word processor offers and verb tenses manipulation.
- Skill Area(s): Reading
- Specific Activities: Skimming
- Time Frame: 60 minutes
- Aims
  - 1) Make Ss aware that the verb tenses they study do exist in everyday life.
  - 2) Practice skimming.
  - 3) Practice some very valuable tools a word processor offers, such as search, change colours, select, replace, copy and paste....
  - 4) Find key words to understand the topic of a text.
- Hardware : One computer for every two or three Ss linked to Internet, one of them (the Teacher's) connected to a screen.
- Software Browser, a Word Processor
- Traditional Materials: pen and paper
- Prerequisites
  - 1) Students should know what a URL and a link are.
  - 2) Students should have a basic knowledge of a few Word processor tools: copy, save, open a new Word document, colour, select.

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### Process

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#### **Preparation:**

For 10 minutes, show the Ss the different services that Yahoo offers. The teacher begins clicking on a few links and a couple of students go to the teacher's computer to continue, while the others watch the process on the screen.

#### **Tip**

Make sure Ss don't turn on their computers until the Teacher has shown the process and the aim is made clear. Experience shows that when their computer is on it's impossible to catch their attention.

#### **Tip**

It's essential Ss write on a piece of paper what they have to do step by step.

#### **Variations**

If Ss are used to netting, have them explore other newspapers apart from the ones offered by Yahoo.

### Presentation:

Explain what students are expected to do and perform one example. Ss take notes on a paper of the steps to follow.

### Practice

Ss

- Type
- Click on Today's News
- For 10 min. they visit the headlines they prefer on the different areas. Yahoo groups them as Business, Technology, World, Entertainment, Politics, Health..
- They have time to skim two or three of these news.
- When time is up, they must have chosen one and use the Save As option.
- Search all words ending in -ed. (File/Search/ed ). The teacher explains that by pressing the space bar after ed, they'll find all words ending in -ed but not in the middle of the word, as Edward, for instance or in the middle.
- Once the -ed words have been identified, each group says how many they have found in their text. The text which contains most will be selected so that all groups continue working with the same one. See this example.

#### Clintons attend public-television blues concert

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton **had** the blues Wednesday as guitar legend B.B. King and singer Della Reese **taped** a White House concert for local public-television station WETA.

Mrs. Clinton **said** the event **provided** a chance to transcend age, race and gender with stories of "heartache, sorrow and redemption," then **introduced** her husband as "America's No. 1 blues fan."

"The first thing I want you to do is relax, because I'm not going to play," Clinton **quipped**, referring to his rare saxophone solos, which have graced some White House gatherings and an installment of "The Arsenio Hall Show" during the 1992 presidential campaign. King **played** his trademark Gibson guitar, Lucille, and **belted** out some of his standards, including "Paying the Cost to Be the Boss" and "The Thrill Is Gone."

Reese, who plays Tess on CBS' "Touched by an Angel," **hosted** the concert. Performers **included** the duo John Cephas and Phil Wiggins, pianist Marcia Ball and 19-year-old singer-guitarist Jonny Lang, who recently **spent** a month touring with King.

"No disrespect to you, Mr. President -- I am privileged to be here with you tonight," Reese **said** with her arm around King. "But I really **came** because I **got** a chance to sing with B.B. King."

Clinton **left** with a souvenir guitar pick from King.

The show, which **was** the Clintons' 10th for WETA's "In Performance at the White House" series, is scheduled to be broadcast in early November.

The series **began** during the Carter administration.

### Production

- In the web document, the group that has the selected text, goes to Edit/Page to get a word copy of it and all groups get one. Print as many copies as Ss so that all can take it home.

- Once they have identified all ed words (Edit/Search/ed), they decide which ones correspond to verbs in Simple Past and which ones don't. It's a kind of concordancing exercise, looking at the words around it you may know if it's a passive voice, an adjective..
- Colour the Simple Past ones in red, for instance.
- Visually, identify all other verbs in Simple Past but irregular and colour them in green.
- Make sure all groups have identified the same forms.
- Explain that as news usually refer to past actions, they may be expressed in Simple Past, but also in Simple "Historical" Present, their next task.

### **Lessons Learned**

- Fix time for each task, otherwise time flies and Ss get lost.
- Decide when it is necessary to be connected to the Internet and when it is not, so that Ss get used to it, something extremely important in some countries like Spain.
- From time to time, stop the process to make sure all Ss are doing the right thing. If they identify the verbs wrongly, for instance, the next task, changing the tense, will be wrong too.

### **Comments**

After this activity, they are a little more confident and relaxed when reading on-line, fast and non-graded texts

### **Links to additional materials:**

<http://deil.lang.uiuc.edu/web/pages/grammarsafari.html> for activities related to the use of web documents for grammar search.