

Let's Teach English – Video Transcript

Unit 1: Learning Strategies

Website: [VOA Learning English](https://learningenglish.voanews.com/z/5203) (https://learningenglish.voanews.com/z/5203)

Women Teaching Women English Theme of Unit: Family

Teaching Topic: Teaching learning strategies

Learning Strategy: Summarize

Video Transcript

Narrator: In this lesson, the teacher presents the learning strategy **summarize**. We join the class after the teacher has introduced the unit. Students have practiced saying the new words and filled in their own family trees.

Teacher: Good morning.

Students: Good morning.

Teacher: Who is ready to talk about your family?

Julia: I am ready.

Teacher: Great. Class, let's listen to Julia. Then I will summarize.

Jamie: What does that mean?

Teacher: First, I will listen to Julia. Then I will repeat her words in a shorter way. Summarizing helps you understand and remember better. Julia, tell us something about each person in your family tree.

(Julia walks to the front of the class and puts sticky notes with names of her family members on the poster of a family tree.)

Julia: There are three women in my house: my mother, Leah; my sister, Stella, and me, Julia. My sister is pregnant. She also has a son, Eric. I am his aunt. My mother is his grandmother.

(Julia points to each name on the family tree as she describes each person.)

Teacher: Thank you. Okay, Now to summarize.

Narrator: Modeling the strategy. Afterwards, the teacher models the strategy, summarize, by giving a summary of the student's description. She explains that summarizing helps in learning English.

Teacher: You have three women in your house. Your sister is pregnant and she has a son. You are an aunt. Your mother is a grandmother. Learning to summarize is helpful for learning English. Let's stand up and make a line by your birthdays.

Narrator: Pairing students at random. The teacher uses a technique to randomly assign partners. Students must talk with each other to line up in order. This gives more variety to pair work and promotes active communication between students.

Teacher: January at the front; December at the end.
(The teacher gestures to the front and end of the line at the front of the room.)
(Students stand up and ask each other about their birthdays.)

Mimi: I'm January.

Julia: February.

Jamie: May.

Maryam: December.

Teacher: Okay, now bring the line around.
(Students walk to face each other.)

Teacher: The person across from you is your partner.
(The teacher gestures to one line.)

Teacher: This group – tell about your families.
(Teacher gestures to the other line.)

Teacher: This group – listen and take notes. Please have a seat.
Partners, listen carefully. I'll ask you to summarize for your partner. Take notes on your paper. Raise your hand when you're finished.
(The teacher models raising her hand.)
(Students sit in pairs and show their charts and talk about their family members. One student in each pair is taking notes.)

Maryam: My brother is Vahab.

Mimi: Vahab is your brother.

Julia: Father, Peter. Mother, Eva. Right.

Mimi: Okay, I think we're done.

(Students raise hands to show their group's work is finished.)

Teacher: Now, hand the family tree to your partner. Listeners, look for someone who has no paper. Tell them about your partner's family.

Narrator: Practicing the strategy. After the students talk in pairs, they summarize what they learned for a new partner. This creates a communicative situation in which the student who is summarizing has information that the listening student does not have.

Mimi: This is Maryam's family. She has a dad and a mom. And then she has a brother, Vahab. And then her sister, Bahar.

Jamie: How old is she?

Mimi: She's six years older.

(Students discuss the others' family trees.)

Narrator: Summary: This activity gives each student time to work actively with two other students while practicing summarizing. Next time, join us for Unit 2. We will teach listening skills and cooperative learning.

Transcript Vocabulary

This definition is from the [Merriam-Webster Learner's Dictionary](http://www.learnersdictionary.com/) (<http://www.learnersdictionary.com/>):

summarize (verb) – to tell (information) again using fewer words

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