

MON NOUVEL ANIMAL DOMESTIQUE

Communicative Task for French as a Second Language

Grade 8 Field of Experience: Animals

TASK SUMMARY

Students will write an email to another grade 8 student, describing their new pet.

Student Focus for the Task

I can describe my new pet. / Je peux décrire mon nouvel animal domestique.

PRINCIPLE OUTCOME FOR THIS TASK

General Outcome	Specific Outcome
Communication: Written Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none">name,...describe...in written form,... resulting in a prepared message expressed in the present that is comprehensible and accurate
Communicative Target* 1.1 Inquire about and share information about facts and events 4.1 Use routine means of interpersonal communication	

*Communicative Target is from the grade 8 [FSL NINE-YEAR PROGRAM OF STUDIES](#) document (Alberta Education)

SUPPORTING OUTCOMES FOR THIS TASK

General Outcome	Specific Outcome
Language: Application of Vocabulary and Language Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">use, with a higher level of accuracy, in...written form, linguistic elements defined in grades 4-7, needed to communicate a message
Language: Production Strategies: cognitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none">develop and use production strategies to facilitate the communication of an oral or written message<ul style="list-style-type: none">use models to create a similar text

PREPARING FOR THE TASK

- Engage students in a brief discussion about how casual emails with people they know well are generally composed (e.g., informal tone, brief opening and closing salutations, etc).
- Review greetings and salutations (p. 85 Program Articulation).
- Review present tense verb conjugation (*être, avoir*) and the infinitive.
- Remind students where they can find resources to help them complete the task (e.g. adjective lists).
- Introduce the “I can” statement to the class. Ensure it is visible throughout the task. Ask student how they will know when they can describe a new pet through an email. What types of words and phrases do people use when they are describing a pet, or giving some exciting news? How do they begin and end emails to friends? With students, build a list of indicators that will help them know they have achieved the “I can” statement.

I can describe my new pet./ Je peux décrire mon nouvel animal domestique.

I know this because...

- I used words and phrases to describe my new pet.
- My email is written the way you write to friends.
- I wrote an email I think my friends will respond to.

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT

- Facilitate a discussion with students about the types of pets they have now or would want to receive for a gift.
- Review words and phrases used to describe colour, size and personality, etc. of pets (p. 129- 130 Program Articulation)
- When coaching students on writing their emails, remind them to identify the name of their pet and to describe it in detail. Encourage students to invite their friend to view the pet. To make the task as authentic as possible, have students attach a picture of the pet to the email.

FEEDBACK FOR LEARNING

- Ask students to consider whether or not they have achieved the “I Can” statement. Students use the indicators to reflect in more detail on their performance.
- To ensure students are creating a strong written product, consider using peer coaching while students are working on their draft emails. Peer coaches could provide feedback such as:
 - What I notice about how you started and ended your email is... I suggest...
 - What I notice about the information you shared about your pet is... I suggest...
 - If I received your email, I would probably answer you by writing...

This task was developed by teachers at the Alberta Assessment Consortium (AAC) Summer Workshop for Second Languages, funded by a grant from Alberta Education.

MON ANIMAL DOMESTIQUE – Student Task

For your birthday, your family gave you the pet you've always wanted. You are very excited and you can't wait to tell your friend about your new pet. You want to introduce your new pet to your friend. Write an email to your friend describing your new pet. Invite your friend to see your new pet.