

# A Sample Tape-Slide Presentation for Teaching the Passive

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This lesson was designed to assist in the teaching of The Passive to Lower Secondary pupils. I felt that this was one way of making the learning of The Passive more interesting to pupils as it is such a difficult item to teach. However, the method of presentation laid down here can be varied to suit a particular class and adjustments can be made to the attention given to each of the sections. Above all, the lesson demonstrates how a so-called 'geographical' subject can be incorporated into an English lesson. Although I actually visited the places shown on the slides and took all the slides myself, such sets of slides are easily and cheaply available at places frequented by tourists.

**Theme of lesson:** Attap Making

- Slides in the Set:**
1. Cutting the fronds
  2. Collecting the leaves
  3. Cutting the areca-nut trunks for frames
  4. Preparing the frame strips
  5. Splitting the bamboo stems to make twine for tying
  6. Threading the leaves
  7. The attaps are ready
  8. Stacking
  9. Loading into the lorry
  10. A shed made of attap
  11. An attap roof
  12. An attap shelter

- Other Teaching Aids:**
- (a) A handout containing the guided composition
  - (b) The actual frame, leaves and twine used in making attap.

**Level of Class:** An average Form II or a weak Form Three.

**Specific Aim of Lesson:** To consolidate Unit 31 in the Lower Secondary English Syllabus; i.e. Passive Voice, Present, Past and Future. (The action is more important than the doer).

**Suggested Presentation:** (80 minutes spread over two-three periods)

**Step I:**

**Introduction:**

(a) The teacher asks the class: "What are the roofs of many Kampung houses made of?"

(b) Then the teacher asks pupils whether they have seen how attap is made. She also asks them whether they know what it is made of.

(c) The teacher then shows the class the things that are used to make attap. Then she asks them to name the materials and say where they come from. (Example: The frame is made from the trunk of the areca-nut palm; The twine is made from split bamboo strips and the leaves are taken from the sago-palm).

(d) Pupils are asked if they know how to make attap. (If there is someone who knows how to do it, let him demonstrate). Otherwise, the teacher can demonstrate how it is done – together with a running commentary:

“First, the piece of areca-nut (which forms the frame) is placed horizontally in front of you. Then a leaf is placed across the frame and folded into half around the frame. A piece of twine is then threaded through the leaf. After that, another leaf is placed next to the first one, folded in half and threaded as before. This is continued until the whole frame is covered with leaves. The twine is then knotted so as to keep the leaves firmly on the frame.”

### **Step II: Practical work**

The teacher tells the class to form groups and each group is given a frame, two pieces of twine and some leaves. Then the group members are asked to try to make an attap.

### **Step III: Use of Slides**

(a) The teacher tells the pupils to look at the slides carefully and to listen to the story on the tape. They are also told to take careful note of the sequence of the story and slides.

ON TAPE: Good morning class. Today we are going to look at some slides on how attap is made and what it is used for.

(b) The teacher shows the slide (1): **Cutting the fronds:**

ON TAPE: First, the leaves have to be taken from either the sago or nipah palm. Can you see the boy cutting a branch, or frond as it is called, of leaves from the sago palm? A parang is used for cutting the fronds as they are very thick and tough to cut.

(c) Slide 2: **Collecting the leaves:**

ON TAPE: Now what is the boy doing? He is cutting off the leaves from the branch. The leaves are all removed from the branch before the best ones are selected. Only the longer leaves are taken. The shorter leaves are thrown away.

(d) Slide 3: **Cutting the areca-nut trunks for frames:**

ON TAPE: This is the areca-nut tree which has been cut down. Its trunk is then cut into a length of about five feet.

(e) Slide 4: **Preparing the frame strips:**

ON TAPE: Now, the trunks is cut into narrow strips. The strips are about one and a half inches wide. They are used as the frames for the attap.

(f) Slide 5: **Making the twine:**

ON TAPE: Here you can see the bamboo stems which have been cut. They are then split into thin strips. They are used for tying the leaves together on the frame. The end of each strip is made sharp so that it can be easily poked through the leaves.

(g) Slide 6: **Threading the leaves:**

ON TAPE: First the leaves are folded into two and placed across the frame. The leaves are placed close together. The bamboo twine is threaded through the leaves so that the leaves are firmly secured to the frame.

(h) Slide 7: **The attap is ready:**

ON TAPE: The attap is ready when the last leaf is placed at the end of the frame. The twine is then knotted at the end so that the leaves won't become loose.

(i) Slide 8: **Stacking the pieces of attap:**

ON TAPE: Here you can see that the pieces of attap are ready. They are counted and stacked carefully. Can you see the boy counting the attap and stacking the pieces? Now the attap is ready to be sold.

(j) Slide 9: **Loading into the lorry:**

ON TAPE: When a lot of attap has been made, it is sold to attap-dealers. After the dealer has paid for the attap, it is loaded onto a lorry and taken to the dealer's shop.

(Pause)

Do you know what attap is used for?

(Pause)

Yes, it is used for making roofs of buildings. It is especially used on the roofs of village houses. Let's look at some of the slides showing how attap is used.

(k) Slide 10: **Making walls of huts:**

ON TAPE: This is a shed made of attap. Look how all the walls are made of attap. Can you see what's inside? No, you can't. It's a useful shed for keeping things in.

(l) Slide 11: **The attap roof:**

ON TAPE. Attap is very often used for roofs of houses. It is cheaper than zinc and it helps to keep the house cool. How many of you live in houses with attap roofs?

(m) Slide 12: **An attap shelter:**

ON TAPE: This shelter is also made of attap. It can be used to shelter cars and bicycles from the hot sun or from rain. It can also shelter people from the sun and rain.

Now, can you think of other things made of attap? You may like to discuss this with your teacher.

#### **Step IV: Discussion on other uses of attap**

(a) Pupils describe other uses of attap.

(b) The teacher asks pupils to draw an attap house or any other building made of attap.

#### **Step V: Guided Composition**

(a) As the pupils are drawing, the teacher distribute handouts containing a guided composition.

(b) The exercise on the handout is merely one type of guided composition for a fairly weak class; other types of composition can be given depending on the level of the class.

Instructions: Match the parts of the sentences in List A with those in List B to form complete sentences. Then write out the sentences in a paragraph to form a story on 'How attap is made'.

**List A**

First, the branches are taken from either the sago or the nipah palm.

Then the areca-nut trees are cut down.

The trunk is usually cut into strips of about 1¼ inches wide and five feet long.

Next, the leaves are folded over the frame and tied firmly with a piece of bamboo twine.

When the whole frame has been covered by leaves

Finally, the attap is stacked neatly and counted.

**List B**

The twine is knotted firmly and neatly.

to be used as frames.

before it is loaded into a lorry and sold to an attap dealer.

before it can be used to make the attap frames.

so that the leaves can be selected to make the attap

so that they will not get loose and drop off from the frame.

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