

Box 6.11a: Rewrite together

Example of original learner text (biology task: write a report about a fictitious food chain on Mars for an information booklet for biologists visiting the planet for the first time)

This story goes about the food chain on Mars. At that planet live some strange animals and plants.

The envril is a really small animal, it's a bacteria it lives on groters, groters are bleu plants who live in dark spots, that dark sport live also the renter, a small animal who eats the whole day plants it's a real herbivore, but he has to watch out for other animals, for instance the menester, this animal hunts at night he eats everything it's a omnivore, the ventral is a kind of a meet eating plant he eats only meat it's a reducer, the the dangaroust of all is the arbier, it lives in the craters but it hunts all day, it a carnivore he only eat meat it's a consumer you better not met him.

This was animals that are a little part of Mars' food chain.



Version rewritten with the class

This report is about the food chain on Mars. Some strange animals and plants live on this distant planet.

The envril is a very small animal. It is a bacteria and lives on groters. Groters are blue plants which live in dark places. Renters also live in similar dark places. A renter is a small animal which grazes on plants all day: it's a herbivore. However, the renter has to beware of other animals, for instance the menester, an omnivore which hunts at night and eats everything. The ventral is a carnivorous plant which is a reducer. Watch out, though, for the most dangerous animal: the carnivorous arbier! It lives in craters and hunts all day. Arbiers are consumers, and other animals avoid them at all costs! This report describes a small part of the food chain on Mars.

Improvements:

1. Use of written (very) rather than spoken (really) language
2. Use of formal academic words (*report, describes*) rather than everyday words (*story, is about*)
3. Use of linking words (*and, however, which, though*)
4. Avoidance of repetition by use of reference words and linking words (*it, which*)