Buffer Lessons: Unit Overview

ENL1W, Grade 9 English (De-streamed), Buffer Lessons. Five stand-alone 75 minute lessons for flex days, assembly-shortened weeks, the day before a holiday, catch-up days or a supply teacher.

The big question

How can one class period still build real English skills?

Each lesson works on its own, needs no earlier lesson and uses only the materials included: a deck with speaker notes, a two-page handout and a teacher plan with a full answer key or look-fors. Every story, passage and data set is original, and the Word of the Year facts were verified in November 2026.

Lessons

#	Lesson	Classes	Question	Expectations	What's inside
1	**Strand Showdown**	1	How much do we remember from every strand?	B2.1, B3.3; C1.6, C3.1, C3.2, C3.3	Five-round team quiz (word parts, point of view, devices, fact or fake, sentence surgery), an ACE wager round, student-written challenge questions and a lifeline toolkit so it works in any unit
2	**Clue to Claim**	1	How do we make inferences we can prove?	C3.2, C2.3, C2.4; A3.1	The inference equation; four original texts from four subjects (story, lab notes, job ad, sales data); a three-part story that makes students revise; ACE paragraph
3	**Word of the Year**	1	How are new words born, and who decides they're real?	B2.1, B2.2, B1.3; A3.1	Guess the real 2025 and 2026 winners; seven word-making processes; Thoreau's 1854 “brain-rot”; sort twelve words; pitch and vote on a class Word of the Year. Check for updates before teaching
4	**Story Relay**	1	How do writers build one story together?	D2.1, D2.3, D2.5; C3.1	Four original starters; four timed rounds with craft moves (revealing dialogue, flashback or juxtaposition, a landed ending); revise for coherence; four-voice reading

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5	**Supply Day**	1	What does a first-person narrator hide from us?	C1.1, C1.6, C3.2; D2.3	Original story “Partners”; five questions; rewrite a scene from another character's point of view. No technology, no prep: a supply teacher script and a full answer key

Assessment

Type	In this unit
Assessment for learning	Team answer sheets (Lesson 1), the Inference Lab and ACE paragraph (Lesson 2), the Word Lab sort and pitches (Lesson 3), relay sheets and revisions (Lesson 4), and the questions and rewrite (Lesson 5). Answer keys and look-fors are in each teacher plan.
Assessment as learning	Self-checks against the success criteria in every deck, exit tickets, the inference revision chart (Lesson 2) and the reflection on a device's effect (Lesson 4).
Assessment of learning	None: these lessons are formative and flexible. Strong pieces, such as a revised relay story or the Dev rewrite, can go into the literacy portfolio.

Lesson 5 is written so a supply teacher can run it from the handout alone; the script is in the teacher notes and on every slide. Lesson 3 uses real dictionary announcements: check for new winners each November and December. The only quoted text is one sentence from Thoreau's Walden (1854, public domain).

What's in each lesson

- Teacher lesson plan with expectations, timed sequence, differentiation, look-fors and answer guides
- Slides with speaker notes
- Student handouts and organizers
- Editable Word and PowerPoint files, plus PDFs

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