

ABORIGINAL STORIES FOR ESL STUDENTS

Academic PDF

Aboriginal Stories for ESL Students

Introduction

Learning English as a Second Language (ESL) can be both an exciting and challenging journey. To make this process more engaging and culturally enriching, educators and learners alike are increasingly turning to storytelling. Among the rich tapestry of storytelling traditions worldwide, Aboriginal stories hold a special place due to their depth, cultural significance, and captivating narratives. Incorporating Aboriginal stories into ESL education not only helps improve language skills but also fosters cross-cultural understanding and respect for Indigenous cultures.

This article explores the importance of Aboriginal stories for ESL students, offers practical ways to integrate these stories into language learning, and provides examples of popular stories and themes. Whether you're a teacher seeking new resources or a student eager to explore diverse narratives, understanding and utilizing Aboriginal stories can greatly enhance the ESL learning experience.

Why Use Aboriginal Stories in ESL Education?

Cultural Enrichment and Diversity

Aboriginal stories introduce students to Indigenous cultures, beliefs, and traditions. They serve as a window into the history and worldview of Aboriginal peoples, promoting cultural awareness and appreciation. For ESL learners, this exposure broadens their understanding of the world, making language learning more meaningful and contextual.

Enhancing Listening and Reading Skills

Stories are an effective tool for developing listening and reading comprehension. Aboriginal stories often feature rhythmic language, storytelling techniques, and vivid imagery, which can captivate students and improve their linguistic skills.

Vocabulary and Language Structures

Through stories, students encounter new vocabulary related to nature, spirituality, and community

life. Repetitive phrases and storytelling patterns can help reinforce language structures and idiomatic expressions, aiding retention and fluency.

Promoting Critical Thinking and Empathy

Many Aboriginal stories teach moral lessons, values, and life principles. Discussing these stories encourages critical thinking and empathy, essential components of holistic language education.

Integrating Aboriginal Stories into the ESL Curriculum

Selecting Appropriate Stories

When choosing Aboriginal stories for ESL students, consider the following:

- Age-Appropriateness: Select stories suitable for the students' age and language level.
- Cultural Sensitivity: Use stories that respect and accurately represent Aboriginal cultures.
- Language Complexity: Opt for stories with clear language, repetitive phrases, and engaging narratives.
- Themes: Focus on themes like nature, animals, creation myths, and community.

Methods of Teaching

- Storytelling Sessions: Narrate stories orally, emphasizing tone, rhythm, and expression.
- Reading Activities: Use written versions of stories for reading comprehension exercises.
- Discussion and Reflection: Encourage students to discuss themes, morals, and cultural contexts.
- Creative Projects: Have students retell stories, draw illustrations, or act out narratives.
- Vocabulary Building: Extract key words and phrases for vocabulary exercises.

Incorporating Multimedia Resources

Utilize videos, audio recordings, and animations of Aboriginal stories to cater to different learning styles. Many Indigenous organizations produce multimedia content that is authentic and respectful.

Popular Aboriginal Stories Suitable for ESL Students

Below are some well-known Aboriginal stories that are engaging and educational:

The Rainbow Serpent

A foundational creation myth in many Aboriginal cultures, the Rainbow Serpent story explains the origins of the land, water, and life. It features themes of transformation, nature, and spiritual connection.

Key Vocabulary: serpent, river, land, spirit, creation

Teaching Tip: Use visual aids to depict the land and the rainbow, and discuss the symbolism of the serpent.

The Dreamtime Stories

These stories describe the Dreaming period when ancestral spirits created the world. They often involve animals, natural features, and moral lessons.

Examples:

- The story of the Emu and the Sun
- The Kangaroo and the Rainbow

Teaching Tip: Incorporate storytelling through role-play or puppetry to bring these stories alive.

The Clever Little Frog

A story emphasizing intelligence, resourcefulness, and teamwork. It can be adapted into simple language for ESL learners.

Themes: problem-solving, cooperation, nature

Teaching Tip: Use this story to teach sequencing and cause-and-effect vocabulary.

The Story of Bunjil the Eagle

Bunjil is a creator spirit in some Aboriginal cultures. The story highlights leadership, protection, and respect for nature.

Themes: leadership, spirituality, respect

Teaching Tip: Discuss the importance of respecting elders and nature in cultural contexts.

Tips for Teaching Aboriginal Stories Respectfully and Effectively

- Research and Respect: Ensure stories are sourced from credible Indigenous sources and presented respectfully.
- Cultural Context: Provide background information to help students understand the stories' significance.
- Avoid Stereotypes: Focus on authentic narratives rather than stereotypes or misconceptions.
- Encourage Cultural Appreciation: Promote open-minded discussions about Indigenous cultures.
- Use Authentic Resources: Collaborate with Indigenous educators or communities when possible.

Additional Resources for Teachers and Students

- Books and Story Collections:
 - Aboriginal Dreamtime Stories by A. Smith
 - Indigenous Tales from Australia by L. Johnson
 - Myths and Legends of Aboriginal Australia by R. Williams
- Online Platforms:
 - Indigenous Education websites
 - YouTube channels featuring Aboriginal storytelling
 - Cultural organizations offering educational materials
- Multimedia Content:
 - Audio recordings of stories
 - Animated videos
 - Interactive storytelling apps

Conclusion

Incorporating Aboriginal stories into ESL education offers a multifaceted approach to language learning. These stories not only help students develop their language skills but also cultivate cultural awareness, empathy, and respect for Indigenous traditions. When chosen thoughtfully and taught respectfully, Aboriginal stories can enrich the ESL classroom environment, making learning more engaging, meaningful, and culturally inclusive.

By exploring themes of nature, spirituality, and community through these stories, ESL students gain a deeper understanding of the world's diversity. Whether used for storytelling, reading comprehension, vocabulary building, or cultural discussions, Aboriginal stories are a valuable resource that can inspire and empower learners on their language journey.

Aboriginal stories for ESL students offer a rich and culturally immersive way to enhance language learning while fostering an understanding of Indigenous Australian heritage. These stories serve as a bridge between language acquisition and cultural appreciation, providing context, vocabulary, and themes that are both educational and meaningful. Integrating Aboriginal stories into ESL curricula can deepen students' engagement, promote intercultural awareness, and develop their listening, reading, and storytelling skills in a compelling manner.

Why Use Aboriginal Stories for ESL Students?

Including aboriginal stories for ESL students in language instruction offers numerous pedagogical benefits:

- Cultural Enrichment: Students gain insights into the traditions, values, and worldview of Aboriginal peoples, fostering respect and curiosity.
- Authentic Language Exposure: Aboriginal stories often incorporate idiomatic expressions, storytelling rhythms, and vocabulary rooted in Indigenous culture, enriching students' language experience.
- Listening and Comprehension Skills: Storytelling is an oral tradition, making these stories ideal for listening practice.
- Vocabulary Development: Themes related to nature, spirituality, and community introduce students to a diverse lexicon.
- Critical Thinking: Analyzing stories encourages reflection on moral lessons and cultural contexts.

Selecting Appropriate Aboriginal Stories for ESL Learners

When choosing stories for ESL students, consider the following criteria:

- Age-Appropriateness: Select stories that match students' developmental levels.
- Cultural Sensitivity: Use stories that are respectful and authentic, ideally sourced from reputable collections or Indigenous authors.
- Language Complexity: Opt for stories with clear narration and accessible vocabulary, especially for beginner and intermediate learners.
- Themes and Morals: Focus on stories conveying universal values such as respect, harmony, and community.

Recommended Types of Aboriginal Stories

- Dreamtime Stories: Classic stories explaining the origins of the land, animals, and humans.
- Moral Fables: Tales that teach lessons about behavior, honesty, and kindness.
- Mythological Tales: Stories about spirits and ancestral beings.

How to Integrate Aboriginal Stories into ESL Lessons

- Storytelling Sessions

Invite storytellers or use recorded audio to introduce stories orally, emphasizing pronunciation and intonation. Follow with comprehension questions and discussions.

- Reading Activities

Provide written versions of stories with glossaries for unfamiliar words. Use annotations to highlight cultural references.

- Vocabulary Building

Create vocabulary lists based on story content, including key nouns, verbs, and adjectives related to nature, animals, and spirituality.

- Cultural Discussions

Encourage students to compare themes from the stories with their own cultures, fostering intercultural understanding.

- Creative Projects

Students can retell stories in their own words, illustrate story scenes, or create their own stories inspired by Aboriginal themes.

Sample Aboriginal Stories and How to Use Them

Example 1: The Rainbow Serpent

Overview: The Rainbow Serpent is a central figure in many Aboriginal Dreamtime stories,

symbolizing creation, water, and fertility.

Educational Focus:

- Vocabulary: serpent, waterhole, creation, spirit
- Themes: origin stories, respect for nature

Activities:

- Listen to a narrated version.
- Discuss the importance of water and nature conservation.
- Draw the Rainbow Serpent and describe its significance.

Example 2: Tiddalik the Frog

Overview: Tiddalik is a frog whose greed causes drought, teaching lessons about moderation and sharing.

Educational Focus:

- Vocabulary: drought, greed, pond, flood
- Themes: consequences of greed, community cooperation

Activities:

- Role-play the story.
- Write a moral lesson based on the story.
- Compare with similar stories from students' cultures.

Tips for Teaching Aboriginal Stories Respectfully and Effectively

- Use Authentic Resources: Seek out stories from reputable sources or Indigenous storytellers.
- Be Culturally Sensitive: Approach stories with respect, avoiding stereotypes or misrepresentation.
- Involve Indigenous Perspectives: Where possible, include voices of Aboriginal authors or community members.

- Encourage Critical Thinking: Discuss the cultural context and symbolism behind stories.
- Foster Respect and Reflection: Teach students about the importance of Indigenous traditions and storytelling as a living culture.

Additional Resources and Materials

- Storybooks and Collections: Look for published anthologies of Aboriginal stories suitable for ESL learners.
- Audio and Video Recordings: Use storytelling videos or audio recordings to enhance listening skills.
- Interactive Websites: Explore online platforms dedicated to Indigenous stories and cultural education.
- Guest Speakers: Invite Aboriginal storytellers or community members to share stories directly.

Conclusion

Incorporating aboriginal stories for ESL students is a powerful way to simultaneously teach language skills and promote cultural understanding. Through storytelling, reading, and discussion, students can develop their vocabulary, comprehension, and critical thinking while gaining insight into the rich traditions of Aboriginal Australia. Respectful selection and presentation of these stories foster an inclusive learning environment that celebrates diversity and fosters global awareness. By embracing these stories, educators not only enhance language learning but also contribute to preserving and honoring Indigenous cultures for future generations.

QuestionAnswer What are Aboriginal stories, and why are they important? Aboriginal stories are traditional tales passed down through generations that explain the world, nature, and cultural beliefs. They are important because they preserve history, teach morals, and connect communities to their heritage. How can learning Aboriginal stories help ESL students improve their English? Learning Aboriginal stories introduces ESL students to rich vocabulary, storytelling structures, and cultural concepts, enhancing language skills while also fostering cultural understanding. What are some common themes found in Aboriginal stories? Common themes include creation, nature, animals, morals, and lessons about respect and sharing, which reflect the values and beliefs of Aboriginal cultures. Are there simplified versions of Aboriginal stories suitable for ESL learners? Yes, many organizations and educators create simplified or adapted versions of Aboriginal stories that are suitable for ESL students, making the stories easier to understand while preserving their cultural meaning. How can teachers use Aboriginal stories to promote cultural awareness in the classroom? Teachers can share Aboriginal stories through storytelling, discussions, and activities that highlight cultural traditions, values, and history, fostering respect and appreciation for Indigenous cultures among students.

Related keywords: aboriginal legends, ESL storytelling, indigenous tales, multicultural stories, language learning stories, cultural heritage, indigenous folklore, storytelling for ESL, Aboriginal myths, bilingual stories

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Learning French through stories is an effective and engaging way for beginners and intermediate learners to improve their language skills. Short stories tailored for these levels provide contextual vocabulary, cultural insights, and practical language use, helping learners build confidence and fluency. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore the importance of French stories for learners at different stages, recommend the best resources, and offer tips for maximizing your learning experience with beginner and intermediate short stories.

Why Use Short Stories to Learn French?

Short stories serve as an excellent tool for language acquisition due to their accessibility and engaging content. Here's why they are beneficial:

1. Contextual Learning

- Stories provide real-life context, making vocabulary and grammar easier to understand and remember.
- They introduce idiomatic expressions and cultural references that are common in daily conversations.

2. Enhanced Reading Skills

- Regular reading improves comprehension, speed, and familiarity with sentence structures.
- Short stories are manageable and less intimidating for learners at the beginner and intermediate levels.

3. Vocabulary Expansion

- Stories incorporate thematic vocabulary, helping learners acquire words related to everyday life, emotions, travel, and more.
- Repetition of key words and phrases reinforces retention.

4. Cultural Insights

- Stories often reflect French culture, traditions, and societal norms, enriching learners' cultural knowledge.

5. Motivation and Engagement

- Captivating stories motivate learners to read more and stay consistent with their practice.

Choosing the Right Short Stories for Beginners and Intermediate Learners

Selecting suitable stories is crucial for effective learning. Here's how to choose appropriate materials:

For Beginners:

- Simplified Language: Stories written with basic vocabulary and simple sentence structures.
- Short Length: Stories that can be read in one sitting, typically 150-300 words.
- Clear Context: Stories centered around familiar themes like family, daily routines, food, or greetings.
- Visual Support: Stories with illustrations aid comprehension and engagement.

For Intermediate Learners:

- Moderate Vocabulary: Incorporate more diverse vocabulary and idiomatic expressions.
- Complex Sentences: Slightly more complex sentence structures to challenge comprehension.
- Cultural Elements: Stories that delve into French customs, history, or social issues.
- Extended Length: Stories that are 300-600 words, allowing for deeper exploration.

Top Resources for French Short Stories for Beginners and Intermediates

Access to quality stories is key. Here are some of the best resources categorized by level:

Online Platforms and Websites

- Le Petit Nicolas: Classic stories suitable for beginners, featuring humorous adventures of a young boy. Available in simplified versions.
- Duolingo Stories: Interactive short stories designed for language learners, with audio and comprehension questions.
- Readlang: Offers a library of French stories with translation features, ideal for intermediate learners.
- French Experiment: Provides free short stories and fairy tales with audio recordings.

Apps and Digital Tools

- LingQ: An app offering a vast collection of stories with audio, vocabulary lists, and translation support.
- Beelinguapp: Bilingual stories that display French and your native language side-by-side, perfect for beginners and intermediates.
- Yabla: Video stories with subtitles and comprehension exercises.

Books and Printed Collections

- "French Short Stories for Beginners" by Olly Richards: A collection designed specifically for beginners with vocabulary aids.
- "Short Stories in French for Beginners" by Olly Richards: Features engaging stories with glossary and comprehension questions.
- "French Short Stories for Intermediate Learners" by Frederic Bibard: Offers stories with richer vocabulary and cultural content.

Effective Strategies for Learning with Short Stories

Maximizing the benefits of short stories involves adopting specific learning strategies:

1. Active Reading

- Highlight new vocabulary and expressions.
- Take notes on sentence structures and idiomatic phrases.

- Summarize stories in your own words.

2. Listening Practice

- Listen to audio recordings while reading to improve pronunciation and listening skills.
- Repeat sentences aloud for pronunciation practice.

3. Vocabulary Building

- Create flashcards for new words.
- Practice using new vocabulary in your own sentences.

4. Cultural Exploration

- Research cultural references or customs mentioned in stories.
- Watch related videos or documentaries for broader context.

5. Consistent Practice

- Set daily or weekly reading goals.
- Read a variety of stories to expose yourself to different themes and vocabulary.

Sample Beginner and Intermediate Short Stories to Get Started

Here are some recommended stories to kick off your journey:

Beginner Level:

- "La Famille" ? A simple story about a family's daily routine.
- "Une Journée à l'École" ? Describes a typical day at school, introducing school-related vocabulary.
- "Le Marché" ? A story about shopping at a local market, useful for learning food and shopping vocabulary.

Intermediate Level:

- "Une Aventure à Paris" ? A story about a trip to Paris, including cultural landmarks and travel vocabulary.
- "Une Rencontre Surprise" ? Involves dialogues and more complex sentence structures, exploring themes of friendship and surprises.
- "Le Mystère du Château" ? A short mystery story that enhances vocabulary and comprehension.

Tips to Enhance Your Learning Experience

To make the most of your reading adventures, consider these tips:

- Set Clear Goals: Decide how many stories to read weekly.
- Use Bilingual Resources: Compare the French story with your native language to understand nuances.
- Join Reading Groups: Participate in forums or local clubs focused on French stories.
- Keep a Vocabulary Journal: Record new words and review them regularly.
- Practice Speaking: Retell stories aloud or discuss them with a language partner.

Conclusion

French stories for beginners and intermediate learners are invaluable tools that foster language development, cultural understanding, and motivation. By choosing appropriate stories, leveraging quality resources, and employing effective learning strategies, you can significantly enhance your French proficiency. Whether you're starting with simple tales or exploring more complex narratives, consistent practice with short stories will pave your way toward fluency and a deeper appreciation of French language and culture. Embark on your storytelling journey today and watch your skills grow with every story read!

French stories beginner and intermediate short stories are invaluable resources for language learners seeking to enhance their comprehension, vocabulary, and cultural understanding. These stories serve as a bridge between basic vocabulary and more complex language structures, offering learners a chance to immerse themselves in authentic French narratives without feeling overwhelmed. Whether you are just starting out or looking to deepen your proficiency, curated collections of beginner and intermediate short stories provide an engaging and effective way to progress in your French language journey.

Introduction to French Short Stories for Learners

French short stories are specifically designed to cater to different proficiency levels, making them ideal tools for structured language acquisition. For beginners, stories typically feature simple

vocabulary, repetitive sentence structures, and familiar themes that resonate with everyday life. Intermediate stories, on the other hand, introduce more complex grammar, varied vocabulary, and nuanced narratives, challenging learners to expand their skills.

Why Use Short Stories in Language Learning?

- Contextual Learning: Stories provide context, making new vocabulary and grammar easier to understand and remember.
- Cultural Exposure: They expose learners to French culture, idiomatic expressions, and storytelling traditions.
- Engagement: Narratives are more engaging than isolated vocabulary lists, increasing motivation.
- Reading Practice: Regular reading enhances comprehension, speed, and fluency.

Features of Beginner French Short Stories

Beginner stories focus on foundational language skills, making them accessible and encouraging. They often feature familiar themes such as family, school, daily routines, and simple adventures.

Characteristics

- Simple vocabulary and sentence structures
- Repetitive phrases to reinforce learning
- Short length, typically 100-300 words
- Clear illustrations accompanying texts
- Use of present tense predominantly

Popular Types of Beginner Stories

- Fables and Folktales: Short stories with moral lessons, like "Le Lièvre et la Tortue" (The Hare and the Tortoise).
- Everyday Situations: Dialogues at the market, school, or home.
- Simple Adventures: Stories about pets, friends, or family outings.

Pros and Cons

Pros:

- Easy to understand and follow
- Builds confidence for new learners
- Reinforces basic vocabulary and grammar

Cons:

- May lack variety in sentence structure
- Stories can become repetitive
- Limited exposure to advanced grammar

Features of Intermediate French Short Stories

Intermediate stories introduce learners to more complex language, richer vocabulary, and more diverse themes. They are designed to challenge learners without overwhelming them.

Characteristics

- Use of past, future, and conditional tenses
- Introduction of idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms
- Longer narratives with more developed plots
- Inclusion of descriptive language and dialogue

Popular Types of Intermediate Stories

- Short detective stories or mysteries
- Cultural tales or legends from French regions
- Stories with moral dilemmas or social themes
- Historical anecdotes

Pros and Cons

Pros:

- Expand vocabulary and grammar knowledge
- Improve reading comprehension of complex texts
- Offer cultural insights and nuanced storytelling

Cons:

- Can be challenging for true beginners
- Might require supplementary grammar review
- Risk of frustration if stories are too difficult

Choosing the Right Stories for Your Level

Selecting appropriate stories is crucial for effective learning. Beginners should start with simple, predictable narratives, gradually progressing to more complex stories as their skills improve.

Tips for Beginners

- Look for stories with audio versions to improve listening skills.
- Choose stories with illustrations to aid comprehension.
- Focus on stories that use familiar vocabulary and structures.

Tips for Intermediate Learners

- Tackle stories that challenge your current vocabulary.
- Read stories with annotations or glossaries for unknown words.
- Practice summarizing stories to enhance understanding.

Recommended Resources for French Short Stories

Several platforms and publications cater specifically to French learners, offering collections suitable for beginner and intermediate levels.

Online Platforms

- Duolingo Stories: Interactive stories with comprehension questions.
- Le Petit Nicolas: Classic stories adapted for learners.
- LingQ: Offers stories with audio and vocabulary tools.
- French Short Stories for Beginners (website): Curated stories with translations.

Books and E-books

- Short Stories in French for Beginners by Olly Richards
- French Short Stories for Intermediate Learners by Frederic Bibard
- Read and Listen French Stories series

Mobile Apps

- Beelinguapp: Bilingual stories with audio support.
- Duolingo: Incorporates stories into lessons.
- LingQ: Extensive library of stories with vocabulary tools.

Strategies for Maximizing Learning from Short Stories

To get the most out of your reading experience, consider implementing these strategies:

- Active Reading: Highlight new words, note grammar points, and predict story outcomes.
- Listening Practice: Listen to audio versions simultaneously to improve pronunciation and listening skills.
- Vocabulary Building: Create flashcards for new words encountered.
- Story Summaries: Write summaries in French to reinforce comprehension.
- Discussion and Sharing: Join language exchange groups to discuss stories and practice speaking.

Conclusion

French stories beginner and intermediate short stories are powerful tools that facilitate language acquisition through engaging narratives tailored to different proficiency levels. Beginner stories lay a solid foundation, focusing on basic vocabulary and simple structures, while intermediate stories challenge learners to expand their skills and deepen their understanding of French language and culture. By choosing appropriate stories and employing effective strategies, learners can enjoy a more immersive, enriching, and motivating language learning experience.

Embracing these stories not only improves reading skills but also fosters a genuine appreciation for French storytelling traditions and cultural nuances. Whether you are just starting or looking to elevate your proficiency, integrating French short stories into your study routine is a step toward fluency that is both enjoyable and rewarding.

QuestionAnswer What are some popular French short stories for beginners to improve their language skills? Popular French short stories for beginners include 'Le Petit Prince' by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, 'Les Aventures de Tintin' by Hergé, and simple fables like 'La Cigale et la Fourmi'.

These stories use basic vocabulary and simple sentence structures ideal for learners. How can intermediate French learners benefit from reading short stories? Intermediate learners can expand their vocabulary, improve comprehension skills, and gain exposure to varied sentence structures by reading short stories. Stories with richer language and more complex plots help develop a deeper understanding of French idioms and cultural nuances. Are there recommended online resources or books for French stories suitable for both beginner and intermediate levels? Yes, resources like 'Le Petit Nicolas' series, 'French Short Stories for Beginners' by Olly Richards, and websites like LingQ and Duolingo offer curated stories tailored to different proficiency levels. These provide audio, translations, and vocabulary support. What are some tips for effectively learning French through short stories? Start with stories suited to your level, read actively by highlighting new vocabulary, and try summarizing the story in your own words. Listening to audio versions while reading can also enhance pronunciation and comprehension. How do short stories help in understanding French culture for learners? Short stories often incorporate cultural references, idiomatic expressions, and social norms, providing insights into French traditions, humor, and daily life, which enriches cultural understanding alongside language learning. Can beginner and intermediate French learners use the same stories, or should they choose different ones? While some stories can be enjoyed at multiple levels, beginners should start with simpler texts focusing on basic vocabulary, whereas intermediate learners can tackle more complex stories with richer language and themes for greater challenge. Are there any specific themes in French short stories that are particularly engaging for learners? Common engaging themes include friendship, adventure, humor, and moral lessons. Stories centered around everyday life and traditional tales also resonate well with learners, making language acquisition more relatable. What techniques can help intermediate learners understand more complex French short stories? Techniques include annotating the text, researching unfamiliar vocabulary, reading with audio support, and discussing stories with language partners or tutors to clarify nuances and deepen comprehension. How often should I read French short stories to see noticeable improvement in my language skills? Consistent practice of at least 3-4 times a week, reading for 20-30 minutes each session, can lead to steady progress. Gradually increasing the difficulty and complexity of stories will enhance vocabulary and comprehension over time.

Related keywords: French stories, beginner French stories, intermediate French stories, French short stories, French reading practice, learn French stories, French storytelling, easy French stories, French language stories, beginner French reading

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