


Language	English
Topic	<b>Text: The first sip of Beer</b>
Learners - Level	All levels

**The first sip of Beer**  
 Excerpt of “The Small Pleasures of Life” (Philippe Delerm)

**Aims and objectives of the activity**

To read and understand the text and improve vocabulary.  
 To practice reading, writing and reporting about a definite topic.  
 To encourage learners to use their creativity.



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**Text: The first sip of beer**  
 (Excerpt of “The small pleasures of life” written by Philippe Delerm)

The only one that counts. Everything that follows is bland by comparison, a tepid coating of your tongue. The harder you swallow, the more meaningless the excess. Perhaps, within the tragedy of the final sip, you can begin to recapture...

The first gulp! Its journey is already well advanced by the time it reaches your throat. With a frothy trail of foaming gold around your lips, bitter happiness slowly permeates your palate. It seems to last a small eternity, that first sip. You drink without hesitation, gulled by your own instinct. The ritual is familiar enough: the right quantity to ensure a perfect prelude; the instant rush of well-being, punctuated by a contented sigh, a smack of the lips, or silence; the giddy sensation of pleasure teetering on the brink of infinity... And yet you know that the best is already over.

You put your glass down on the beer mat and push both slightly away. Time to relish the colour – ersatz honey, cold sun. If only you were patient and wise enough to grasp the miracle behind this disappearing act. You notice with satisfaction that the brewer’s name on the side of the glass correspond with the beer you ordered. But whatever the relation of the vessel, to its contents, nothing can bridge the gap between them, or conjure liquid out of thin air.

What wouldn’t you give to capture and encode the secret of pure gold? Instead, you sit at your sun-splashed white table, like a frustrated alchemist intent on keeping up appearances – each mouthful is a falling away from pleasure. Happiness has a bitter taste when you have to drink in order to forget the first sip.

**Procedure:**

- Learners read the text and translate it
- They are asked to write a list of the “actions” described in the text
- Then they imagine and write a short story using these “actions”. The topic can be completely different from the one of the text.
- Finally they read it to the class.