

Teaching Academic English Through Design

TESOL / EAP Teaching Guide

Core text: Jean Pascaud (French Art Deco furniture designer)

Prepared for: TESOL and EAP educators (upper-intermediate to advanced learners)

Encyclopedia.Design – Academic English Teaching Guides

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This guide provides teaching support for using an authentic academic-style reference text in English language learning contexts. It is not a course, syllabus, assessment instrument, or accredited program.

At a glance

Recommended level	Upper-intermediate to advanced (CEFR B2–C1)
Estimated duration	45 minutes (adaptable to 30–60 minutes)
Mode	Digital (phones / tablets / laptops), projector optional
Language focus	Academic reading, vocabulary in context, discourse awareness, spoken explanation
Digital focus	Website navigation, headings, credibility cues, source evaluation
Materials	Core text webpage, internet access, whiteboard or shared screen

Teaching rationale

This lesson uses a discipline-adjacent design history text as input for English for Academic Purposes (EAP). The text models formal register, cohesive paragraphing, and academic vocabulary. Teachers focus on language and literacy outcomes rather than design knowledge.

Core text

Core text (live reference): [Jean Pascaud: Architectural Discipline and Luxury Craft in French Art Deco Furniture](#)

Suggested use: Read on-screen. Do not print the full article for this lesson.

Optional teacher note: Ask learners to ignore advertising elements and focus on headings, paragraphs, and sources.

Learning objectives

- Learners identify the purpose and structure of an academic-style web text (headings, sections, sources).
- Learners read selectively for gist and key details (introduction and conclusion first).
- Learners interpret academic vocabulary and collocations in context.
- Learners summarise a key concept from the text using neutral, formal language.
- Learners practise safe navigation habits (recognising external links and credibility cues).

Lesson sequence (45 minutes)

Stage 1 – Digital orientation (5 minutes)

1. Learners open the article and scroll without reading for 30–60 seconds.
2. Learners locate three elements: a heading, an image caption, and the Sources section.

3. Brief class check: What tells you this is a long, formal text?

Stage 2 – Reading for gist (strategic reading) (10 minutes)

4. Learners read the Introduction section only.
5. Learners jump to the 'Legacy and Design Significance' section and read it.
6. Pairs answer: Who is Jean Pascaud? Why is he significant? (Use sentence starters.)

Stage 3 – Academic vocabulary in context (10 minutes)

7. Learners highlight 6–8 academic words or phrases in the text.
8. Learners write a simple meaning or synonym next to each item.
9. Optional teacher-led focus on collocations: 'grounded in', 'commitment to', 'mastery of'.

Stage 4 – Paragraph function and cohesion (10 minutes)

10. Learners read 'Structural Clarity and Proportion' and identify the topic sentence.
11. Learners underline linking phrases (e.g., 'From the outset', 'Unlike contemporaries', 'More importantly').
12. Brief discussion: How does the writer organise ideas logically?

Stage 5 – Spoken academic explanation (10 minutes)

13. In pairs, learners choose one subsection to explain (materials, collaborations, or legacy).
14. Learners give a 60-second explanation using neutral language (no personal opinion).
15. Optional share-out: Two pairs present. Teacher notes strong academic phrases on board.

Sentence starters (optional support)

- This article explains...
- Pascaud is significant because...
- A defining feature of his work is...
- The writer argues that...
- The text suggests that...

Suggested vocabulary (teacher-selected)

Word / phrase	Plain-English meaning
architectural discipline	a focus on structure and spatial design principles
material refinement	careful, high-quality selection and finishing of materials
technical rigour	precision and strict attention to method
surface treatment	how an object's surface is finished (lacquer, veneer, inlay)
structural clarity	easy-to-see organisation and strong underlying structure

synthesis

a combination of different elements into a unified whole

Digital literacy focus: credibility cues

Use the article to practise recognising credibility indicators. Learners can identify headings, sources, named institutions, and external links. Teachers can reinforce safe browsing habits such as opening links in new tabs and checking domain names.

Differentiation and adaptation

- For B1+ learners: use only the Introduction and one short subsection; pre-teach 6 key words; allow bilingual glosses.
- For C1 learners: add a short comparison task (Pascaud vs Ruhlmann) using the 'Post-War Practice' paragraph.
- For mixed levels: assign roles (reader, summariser, vocabulary finder) in pairs.

References (from the source article)

- Proantic. (n.d.). Jean Pascaud commode object listing. https://www.proantic.com/en/print/fiche_objet?id=1139708
- Doc'Antic. (n.d.). Jean Pascaud (1903–1996): Biography. <https://www.docantic.com/en/page/80/jean-pascaud-1903-1996-biographie>
- Galerie Marcilhac. (n.d.). Jean Pascaud: Biography. <https://marcilhacgalerie.com/artists/85-jean-pascaud/biography/>
- Maison Gérard. (n.d.). Jean Pascaud – Designers & Artists. <https://www.maisongerard.com/designers-artists/jean-pascaud>

About this guide

This sample guide demonstrates how a design history reference text can support EAP reading and academic literacy. Teachers may adapt timing, language support, and discussion depth to suit their learners and institutional requirements.

Judge, S. (2025, December 27). Jean Pascaud: Architectural discipline and luxury craft in French Art Deco furniture. Encyclopedia.Design. <https://encyclopedia.design/2025/12/27/jean-pascaud-architectural-discipline-and-luxury-craft-in-french-art-deco-furniture/>