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Topic - Teaching Method ESL

Date - Fall 2016

Method - Describing Pictures

Application:

This technique is based on projecting a picture on the screen at the front of the class and asking the students to describe things within a given period of time. It allows for a variety of speaking abilities, competition, and rotation of speaking partners. It makes a good filler exercise and encourages participation by everyone. The picture can be selected to emphasize a particular topic i.e. an operating room, train station, airport, etc.

The students can be asked to use a variety of descriptive techniques within a given time, such as:

- Describe the picture to someone else and then ask them to compare your description to the picture and comment on anything they might have included.
- Give student A a set time to describe everything they can about the picture to student B. Trade roles. You can begin with 3 minutes and reduce the time each rotation.
- Give student A one minute to describe as many nouns, with adjectives, that they see in the picture. Trade roles looking for new nouns.
- Give student A one minute to describe as many actions (verbs) as they see in the picture. Trade roles looking for new actions.
- Ask student A to describe what the picture reminds them of in their life. Trade roles.
- Ask student A to select an object, in the picture, for which they do not know the English word and describe it to student B. Trade roles.