

Listening exercises with a simple picture

In general, at least a short, preparatory lead-in by the teacher should precede all listening passages. If the textbook does not include these, the teacher should add them. If the textbook does include them, they should be used. This activity is not as simple as it looks at first.

The Two Little Girls

Listening Activity



- | | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> | | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
|----|-------------|--------------|-----|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | _____ | _____ | 6. | _____ | _____ |
| 2. | _____ | _____ | 7. | _____ | _____ |
| 3. | _____ | _____ | 8. | _____ | _____ |
| 4. | _____ | _____ | 9. | _____ | _____ |
| 5. | _____ | _____ | 10. | _____ | _____ |

Give each student a worksheet with a copy of the picture. The picture is described but with obvious mistakes.

Students are to put a tick in the appropriate column on the worksheet as they listen to the description.

Tapescript: (Read the numbers as well as the sentences)

1. This is a picture of two little girls.
2. One of them has very long hair while the other girl has short hair.
3. One of them has a kitten on her lap.
4. They have pretty striped dresses on.
5. One of them has a plain headband on.
6. The other one has a scarf on.
7. She is also wearing a bracelet.
8. Both of them have shoes on.
9. They are both standing on the floor.
10. Perhaps they are modelling children's clothes.

When the students have completed the listening task, they try to recall the false statements and orally reconstruct them to form true statements. While most individual students cannot, the class as a whole will most likely be able to do this from memory.

Note: The teacher should not agree or disagree with the students' responses. Instead, she should get a number of students to give their views before she allows the students to listen to the statements one at a time. This produces quite intensive listening.

Writing Activity

The students rewrite the false statements to make them true.

The better students could be set the task of writing a number of sentences describing the picture. Or they could be asked to write sentences on a picture of two other girls. It could be advisable to select a picture which would allow for the use of lexical items used in this exercise, e.g.. stripe, plain, bracelet, etc.