

Topic: Talking about photographs

Aims:

- To help students ask and answer questions about photographs
- To develop students' listening skills
- To develop students' writing skills
- To develop students' communication skills

Level: Low intermediate A1/A2

Age: Teenagers / adults

Introduction

What photos have you got on your mobile? Do you keep pictures in your purse or wallet? Have you got a photograph on your identity card? This lesson gives students the chance to talk about their photos and then write a description of a favourite picture.

Procedure

Lead in

- Bring in 3 or 4 of your own photos to show to the class. Make photocopies for the students or display them using the projector or IWB. Ask students to guess what the pictures have in common. Tell the students that the common link is that they are all your photos. They can ask you about the pictures in a minute but first they need to prepare some questions.

Task 1: Questions about photographs.

- Hand out Task 1. Students prepare the questions in pairs. Point out that some of them have more than one possible option. Have the students ask you any of the questions (and any others they can think of) about your photos. Answer any questions that are grammatically correct. Elicit or feed in corrections as necessary.

Task 1: Questions about photographs

A) Here are some typical questions that people ask about photographs. Can you complete the questions with the correct word? (More than one option may be possible.)

Who Where Where What's What What What Who What
When

- 1 When/Where was it taken?
- 2 are they?
- 3 was it taken?
- 4 is this?
- 5 is she doing?
- 6 are they doing?
- 7 took the picture?
- 8 this?
- 9 do you keep the photo?
- 10 kind of camera have you got?

B) Ask your teacher about his or her photographs.

C) Have you got any photographs with you? Ask and answer questions about your photographs with a partner.

Answers Task 1: A) 2 Who/Where/What, 3 When/Where, 4 Who/What/Where, 5 What, 6 What, 7 Who, 8 What's, 9 Where, 10 What

- Ask students to get out any photos they have with them – on their mobiles, ID cards, pictures of their dog etc. You could ask students in advance to bring photos to this class if you think they don't normally carry any with them.
- In pairs or small groups the students can now talk about their own photographs using the pre-prepared questions. Monitor and feed in vocabulary as necessary.
- Mix up the pairs/groups and have students talk to different people about their pictures.

Task 2: Describing a photograph.

- Ask students to look at the photo in Task 2 and to guess where and when it was taken. Ask them to read the description quickly to find out. (Barcelona in March)
- Tell the students that some of the information in the description is not correct and that you have the correct version of the description. They have to listen and correct the wrong information in their description. Read out the teacher's version (below).

Teacher's version – a favourite photo

One of my favourite photos is of my nephew and his friend in the snow in Barcelona.

My sister took the photo last March. My nephew Daniel and his friend are playing in the park after school. It looks like they are making a snowman. I remember that it snowed all day that day. It hardly ever snows in Barcelona!

My sister said that she was really cold because she wasn't wearing gloves. Daniel and his friend didn't want to go home because they were having so much fun.

I keep this photo on my computer in a file called 'Snow in Barcelona'.

- Students extend their vocabulary with the matching exercise in B.

Task 2: Describing a photograph.

A) Listen to your teacher and correct the wrong information in your description.



A favourite photo

One of my favourite photos is of my nephew and his friend in the snow in Barcelona.

My cousin took the photo last March. My nephew Daniel and his friend are playing in the park before school. It looks like they are making a snowman. I remember that it snowed all day that day. It often snows in Barcelona!

My sister said that she was really sad because she wasn't wearing boots. Daniel and his friend didn't want to go to school because they were having so much fun. I think Daniel was about five or six when this photograph was taken.

I keep this photo on my living room wall in a frame called 'Snow in Barcelona'.

B) Match the underlined sections of the text with the words and expression that have a similar meaning below

1. very	
2. shows	is of
3. such a good time	
4. The photograph was taken by my sister	
5. I think	

C) Which questions from 'Task 1: Questions about photographs' are answered in each paragraph?

Answers Task 2:

A) *Student version*

Teacher version (the correct version)

<i>cousin</i>	<i>sister</i>
<i>before</i>	<i>after</i>
<i>often</i>	<i>hardly ever</i>
<i>sad</i>	<i>cold</i>
<i>boots</i>	<i>gloves</i>
<i>to school</i>	<i>home</i>
<i>living room wall</i>	<i>computer</i>
<i>frame</i>	<i>file</i>

B)

<i>1. very</i>	<i>really</i>
<i>2. shows</i>	is of
<i>3. such a good time</i>	<i>so much fun</i>
<i>4. The photograph was taken by my sister</i>	<i>My sister took the photo</i>
<i>5. I think</i>	<i>It looks like</i>

C) *paragraph 1 – questions 1,2,3*

paragraph 2 – questions 1,2,3,4,6,7,8

paragraph 4 – question 9

Task 3: Prepositions, discussion and writing

- Ask students to complete exercise A individually then compare answers in pairs.
- Before discussing the questions in B, give the students a couple of minutes to make notes of what they want to say. Students ask and answer the questions in pairs or in small groups. With lower levels just use the first 3 questions.
- Students could write a description of a favourite photograph for in class or for homework. If you could get them to also bring in a copy of the photograph that would be great. You could display the descriptions and photographs then ask students to match them.

Task 3: Prepositions, discussion and writing

A) Where can you keep photos? Complete the expressions with the correct preposition.

as in by on

1	a wall, Facebook, flickr, my computer, my mobile, the table
2	an album, a frame, my purse/wallet, my bedroom/office
3	my bed, my computer
4	a screen saver

B) Discuss these question with a partner:

Where do you keep photos?

Do you like looking at other people's pictures?

When do you usually take photos?

Is photography art?

Have you got any embarrassing photographs of yourself?

C) Write a description of one of your favourite photographs.

Answers Task 3:

A) 1 on, 2 in, 3 by, 4 as