

Sample

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Imagine That!

Mental imagery in the EFL classroom

summers

licht

melody

butterfly



With CD-ROM / Audio CD

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Point to Where the Window Is

Language focus: Lexical set of words relating to the home

Level: Elementary and lower intermediate

Time: 5–15 minutes

Preparation: None.

in class

1. Pre-teach words for objects in a room (*table, chair, door, window, carpet, curtains, lamp, walls, window sill, cooker, fridge, sink, cupboard, wardrobe, chest of drawers, bed, bedside table, sofa, armchair, bath, mirror, shower, toilet* etc.)
2. Ask your students to take a book – the thicker, the better – and hold it on their lap. Ask them to touch all four sides of it. As they are doing this, ask them to pretend that the four sides are the walls of their room:
As you are touching the four sides of the book, I'd like you to pretend that this is not a book, but your bedroom. And I'd like you to pretend that the four sides are not the sides of your book, but the walls in your bedroom.
3. After a few seconds ...
Now touch where the door to your room would be. Touch that spot. Now use your fingers to walk from the door to the bed. Touch where the bed is.
4. After a few seconds ...
Now touch where the window is ... and if there are more windows, touch where the other windows are ... Now walk with your fingers from one of the windows to the light switch ... touch the light switch ... imagine that you are turning on the light ... imagine you can hear the sound of the switch being turned on ... Now walk to all the other objects in your room that you haven't touched yet ... maybe there is a chair ... and a desk ... a carpet ... curtains ... Take your time ... touch all the objects in your room.
5. Later, students can be asked to write a short text describing their room. It might be necessary to pre-teach prepositions and language of description.

Variation

1. If the activity is done several times with the same group of students, vary the content by asking them to imagine other rooms (their living room, their kitchen, the classroom, the school hall, a shop etc.).