

# Let's enjoy working with pictures!

Editing and sharing photos or videos is everyday practice for many people nowadays. With Let's Enjoy English, visuals and videos can take centre stage in our classrooms, so let's make the most of them!

While many of us are always on the lookout for new ideas and materials to teach with, we often tend to overlook what's right in front of us: great photos, cartoons, illustrations and lately even videos in our coursebooks. Here are a couple of suggestions of what to do with the many awesome visuals that come with Klett's latest coursebook series *Let's Enjoy English*. A particular focus will be placed on ideas for using visuals beyond the coursebook page.

## Choosing pictures

First of all, here are some helpful criteria when choosing a visual to base an activity on. Of course, even stills of buildings, landscapes or perhaps food items lend themselves nicely to descriptive activities and especially for practising vocabulary. Generally, though, visuals that are dynamic, showing people in interaction or at least involved in some activity, are best suited for communicative classroom activities. Ideally they should also allow for different interpretations and personalisation.

## Creative writing

Pictures such as the two shown in Fig. 1, which are from the introduction pages of units 1 and 4 of *Let's Enjoy English A1 Review*, tick all the boxes of the aforementioned criteria. Here's a suggestion for what you can do with them in class:

First divide your class in half. One half looks at the first picture and the other half at the second picture. Students work in pairs or threes. Write these questions on the board, adapting them to the level of your class. Students can, of course, also come up with questions themselves:

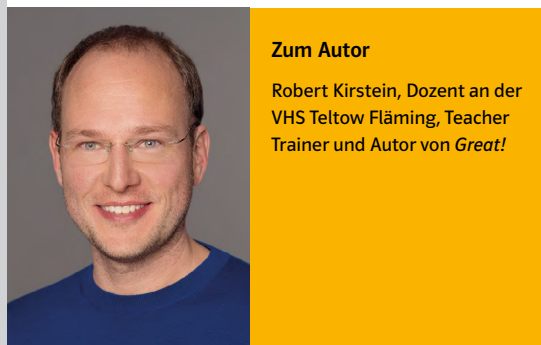
1. Who are the people in the picture?
2. How old are they and what are their jobs?
3. What is their everyday life like?/What do they normally do everyday?
4. What are they doing (in the picture)?
5. Why are they doing that?
6. What will happen next?/What are their plans for the rest of the day?/What are they going to do next?

Now tell the students they have 10 to 15 minutes to come up with a story to go with their picture. Their stories can be funny or serious. Tell them they should answer the questions on the board in their story. Go around and help with vocabulary, etc. When the time is up, ask the groups to take a minute and look at the other groups' picture before telling their stories. The idea here is that students will form a mental image of the other situation before they hear the other groups' stories.

This creative writing activity can be used with any of the photos on the introduction pages throughout the *Let's Enjoy English* coursebook series. Questions simply need to be adapted to the appropriate language level of the class.

## Grammar activities

Why not use pictures to make grammar practice more fun? You need to choose pictures which will encourage students to use the grammar point in question. The picture and activity in Fig. 2 is an example from *Let's Enjoy English B1 Grammar*.



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Fig. 1 *Let's Enjoy English A1 Review*, pp. 5 & 45, ISBN 978-3-12-501631-1

Students have learned to use the will-future and the future progressive.

In the picture we see a man dreaming about his next holiday. In the accompanying exercise, students practise using both tenses by completing the verbs in a gap-fill text. The picture provides the inspiration and sets the scene.

As a follow-up exercise you could write "This time next summer..." on the board and ask students to draw a picture of themselves (or simply a smiley) dreaming about their next

## "Why not use pictures to make grammar practice more fun?"

holiday and to add three icons to show what they are dreaming of doing. Students then show their pictures to various partners and tell each other what they'll be doing using the gap-fill text as a template. The same picture, text and exercises could be easily adapted to practise using the past progressive and simple past, too.

### Vocabulary activities

Practising vocabulary is what probably first comes to mind when thinking about using pictures in class. Classic questions like "What can you see?" or "Describe the picture." are great for eliciting and practising vocabulary. Associating pictures and words often helps students remember the words better and avoids the need to translate. Fig. 3 is a typical and good example from *Let's Enjoy English A2.2*. A great idea to 'spice up' a lesson and revise vocabulary is to play a form of 'Pictionary': In a game of pictionary one person usually draws a picture and the others guess what is being drawn. You can play

**3a.** Owen is dreaming about his next holiday. Complete the gaps with the simple future (will) or the future progressive (will be + ing form of the verb).

This time next month, I \_\_\_\_\_ [1 be] in Barbados. I \_\_\_\_\_ [2 lie] on a beach under a palm tree with my girlfriend and we \_\_\_\_\_ [3 watch] the sunset together. I expect she \_\_\_\_\_ [4 drink] a massive tropical cocktail. Or perhaps we \_\_\_\_\_ [5 sail] in a little boat on the sea? I don't know exactly where we \_\_\_\_\_ [6 be] or what we \_\_\_\_\_ [7 do] – but I know that I can't wait!



Fig. 2 *Let's Enjoy English B1 Grammar*, p.28, ISBN 978-3-12-501648-4

**3a.** Write the school subject under the picture.

English | Maths | Computer Studies | History | Geography  
Science | Religious Education | Sport | Art | Music



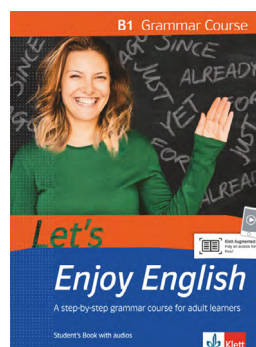
Fig. 3 *Let's Enjoy English A2.2*, p.133, ISBN 978-3-12-501639-2

this game in class by drawing pictures on the board, or having students draw them. But you can also play by gradually revealing a picture, or by cutting a picture into pieces and then telling students to turn over one piece at a time and guess what it is.

A further alternative is to ask students to work out which word field or generic term a set of pictures belong to. Here you show pictures which belong to a word field one after another, such as the pictures in Fig. 3. Ask students to suggest the word for the word field (in this case: school subjects).

There are so many pictures available

for us to use, it's sometimes difficult to make a choice. The quickest fix to that problem is using the many great visuals in our coursebooks! No matter the topic or issue at hand, you can be sure to find something suitable – and readily available!



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