

Pictures in close-up

Level A1-C1

This activity is great for getting students to be more observant and encouraging them to create stories around pictures. You don't have to use works of art, you can also use photographs that have some activities in them. It is a good idea to try and find high definition photographs or works of art so you can zoom in on the details.

Before your lesson

Find a photograph or a painting that is quite busy, it could be a picture you took on holiday of a busy street or perhaps something like Hogarth or a 17th century Dutch artist.

In your virtual lesson

Share the complete picture and ask your students to list what they can see.

Students then compare lists in pairs.

Now hide the picture and slowly reveal it from top to bottom. As more detail emerges get individuals to describe what they can see.

They will be surprised by how much they have missed and also the narrative they can now give to the picture.

Homework or further activity

Finally, get them to link all the details together by writing a paragraph about the overall subject of the painting and create a story about what they can see.

