# eslactive

## Memory Picture

Tags: beginner, clothes, intermediate, kids, past continuous, prepositions of place, present continuous, there is/are

In the Memory Picture ESL activity, students work together to draw a picture from memory.

👤 1+   ⏱ 10-20 mins   📋 Projector; Prepared Image

### Setup

Find a suitable image that you can project, with enough details/target language elements.

If you have a small class, you can do this activity together on the board (this works particularly well if you can project/draw in two different places to compare at the end). With larger classes, divide the students into groups of two or three. Each group will need a blank piece of paper.

### Activity

1.  Project the image on the wall/board.

2.  The students have one or two minutes to memorise as much of the scene as possible. They must not write/draw anything during this time!

3.  When the time is up, remove the image from view.

4.  One student in the class/each group now acts as the artist, and draws the picture on the board/a piece of paper. All of the students will help them by describing elements of the picture, using the target language.

5.  Students should combine and/or debate ideas to come to a decision. For example, Student A: *There was a woman playing the guitar on the left*. Student B: *Yes, she was below the two trees, but she was playing the violin, not the guitar*. Enforce English-only strictly here!

6. Finally, reveal the image again and compare the pictures.

## Target Language

The Memory Picture ESL activity is great for practising descriptions with beginner or low intermediate students. Target language could include there is/are (or there was/ were) structures, prepositions of place, and the present continuous or past continuous for activities. Adapt the activity to your level/specific target language by choosing a picture with appropriate details/vocabulary.

This activity works particularly well with kids, who will enjoy the creative component. With kids, you could ask that they include colours too, and/or the clothes people are wearing. Putting all the different versions of the same picture on the wall could make a great classroom display.

For a similar activity without the memory element, try Describing Pictures.