

ESL Intermediate Level: Picture Discussion: Not Talking, Just Thinking

Introduction

This worksheet provides opportunities for students to discuss their reactions to a picture they will have seen in English-speaking countries during the week before. The picture is a cartoon in a simple, childlike style, depicting a man who has just been given a very large bill for a small amount of work he did. He looks very angry and confused at the same time. Students are asked to talk about what they think the man is thinking, and why he might be angry. They are also asked to give their own reactions to the situation, and to say whether they would do the same thing if they were in the man's place. This is a good opportunity for students to practice their listening and speaking skills, as well as their reading and writing skills. It is also a good opportunity for students to practice their critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Teacher's Notes

1. Before starting the lesson, show the students the picture and ask them to describe it in their own words.
2. Ask the students to answer the following questions about the picture: Who is the man? What is he doing? Why does he look angry? Why does he look confused?
3. Based on possible solutions to the problem, ask the students to write down their own ideas and then share them with the class.
4. If most of the students seem to be stuck, tell them to think of the best solution to the problem, and then tell them to share their ideas with the class.
5. Encourage the students to work in pairs or groups.
6. Ask the students to write down their thinking. Encourage them to think of the opposite to what they think, and to consider all possible outcomes. Encourage them to think of the "other side" of the argument, and to consider the consequences of their possible actions, both positive and negative.
7. Encourage the students to share their ideas with the rest of the class. This may be done by writing them on the board, or by having each student take turns sharing their ideas.
8. Discuss the students' solutions, and encourage them to consider all possibilities.
9. Finally, ask the students to decide which solution they think is best, and to explain their reasoning.
10. Share the students' solutions with the class again, and encourage them to consider all possibilities.
11. Finally, ask the students to reflect on the experience, and to consider how they can apply what they learned to other situations in their lives.