



Face Down!

by Paul Walsh

Language: Question forms/ guessing vocabulary

Activity: Guessing the story behind an unusual picture

Level: All levels

Time: 10-15+

Materials: Picture to show learners on paper; on laptop; with laptop and projector



Introduction

This is a guessing game with a few differences or 'hacks'. I have to thank [Thee Erin](#) for her wonderful [Face Down photos](#).

Procedure

1. Show one of the Face Down photos using a projector. [This](#) is the one I chose.
2. Ask learners for their immediate explanations. This gets rid of 'everyday explanations'.
3. Give learners slips of paper. Ask them to think of alternative explanations, and write this explanation in one sentence on their piece of paper. Tell them that this explanation is secret - they mustn't show it to anyone.
4. As they finish their sentences, take a look and check for basic mistakes. Correct quickly if necessary.
5. When everyone has a sentence to explain the picture. Tell them:

You have to ask questions to find out the other person's explanation for the unusual situation in the picture.

The person can only answer yes or no. You have five minutes.

Choose one person to go first - they will answer questions from the other learners.

6. They ask their questions, the person replies with yes or no.
7. After each turn, feed in a few corrections and useful language for guessing. For example,

Can I/ we have a clue?	(You're) getting warmer
No, not really	You could say that
You're on the right track (there)	You're way off track (there)

8. After everyone has finished - decide on the best explanation for the picture.

Follow up

Ask learners to find unusual photos on the web, bring them into class and play the same game.

Images

[Face Down Tuesday with disposable art](#) by Thee Erin on flickr.

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