

Quick on the draw

Warm up

Introduce the topic of drawing with these questions:

- Who enjoys drawing?
- Does anyone here feel that they are good at drawing?
- How often do you draw these days? When? Why?
- Did you draw when you were a (young) child? When? Why?
- When did you stop drawing? Why?

Next tell the students you would like them to draw a picture of a dog and that they shouldn't take longer than 3-4 minutes over it.

When they have finished the drawing, write these words on the board: *tail, fur, paws, hind legs*. Ask students to label their picture with these words.

NOTE: Students will want to see each other's pictures, but of course it is important not to force them to show their pictures, nor to pass judgement on their artistic skills. The labelling exercise is intended to reassure: **drawing is a tool which can be used for many things, including learning vocabulary in a foreign language.** To emphasise the point, ask them now to modify their drawing to show the dog barking.

Now ask them to modify their picture again by showing that the dog is wagging its tail. Write on the board:

The dog is wagging its tail because ...

Students have to complete the sentence with a reason why the dog is happy. For example, *... its owner is going to take it out for a walk.*

Brainstorm some more ideas about how drawing pictures could be useful when learning a language (and make it more fun!).

Main activities

Students can do some of these activities in pairs or small groups.

1 Give out the activity sheets.

Ask students to look at the drawings of dogs. Which one(s) do they like best, and why? Which one is the most dog-like?

2 Tell students they are going to read about an annual cultural event in Britain. Their first task is to decide what the purpose of the article is.

Answer
C

3 Students reread the article in sections, answering the other multiple-choice questions.

Answers
1 B 2 D 3 D 4 B 5 C 6 A

Follow up

Facial expressions

Give out the photocopies of the six facial expressions and words below. Ask students to match each of the expressions with one of the words (dictionaries may be useful for this task). They can then:

- try to draw the expressions from memory
- draw more empty circles, write different adjectives underneath each one (e.g. *tired, embarrassed, puzzled*), and then ask their partner to draw the expressions.

Answers

1 cruel 2 proud 3 worried 4 angry 5 excited 6 surprised

Pictographs

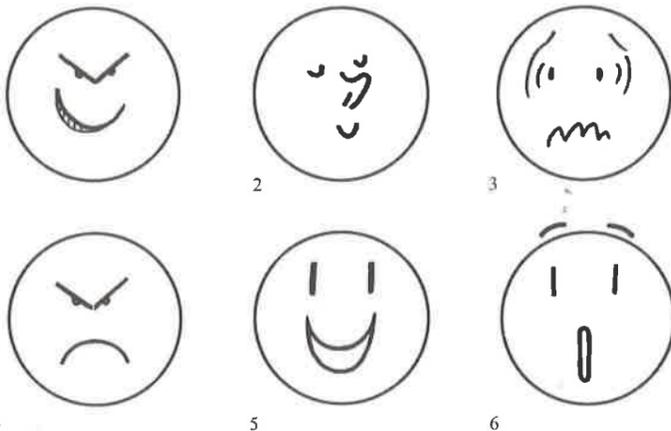
Give out the photocopies of the pictographs (on pages 139-140).

Pictographs can be used as a mnemonic for learning words but they are also an enjoyable and creative way of exploring words visually. You don't need particular skill at drawing, but you do need a playful imagination.

Once students have looked through the pictographs and done the puzzles (see answers below), ask them to think up more pictographs of their own, perhaps to illustrate vocabulary studied in recent lessons. Pictographs can be used to add a bit of visual interest to the students' own notebooks, or to make an attractive classroom display.

Answers

hear boxing selfish handsome wave
I'm looking forward to seeing you.



angry cruel surprised worried excited proud

Quick on the draw

1



- How are the dogs different from each other?
- What is different about the style of drawing in each picture?
- Which do you like best, and why?

2 Read the article about the Big Draw. What is the writer's main purpose in this article?

- A to advise us to take drawing lessons
- B to describe the history of drawing
- C to tell us about a cultural event
- D to explain how children develop

Drawing is a universal language. It was probably our first form of self-expression when we were babies: long before we start writing, we're painting and scribbling, both in order to make sense of the world and because we enjoy it.

In the history of human culture, too, painting and image making came before writing or even simple mathematics: 30,000 years ago compared to 5,000. Yet after we leave school most of us never pick up a pencil again – willingly. If asked to draw something, most adults and many older children will shake their heads and say, 'Not me! I can't draw. I'm hopeless at it.'

When you think about it, this is very strange. Drawing involves coordinating the hand and the eye with the pencil. It's a basic skill, no more difficult to learn than 101 other amazing things that humans do, such as hitting a tennis ball over the net, zapping aliens on a computer screen or, indeed, writing our own name. There's no special talent involved. Anybody who can learn to write can learn to draw.

So, there you are – no excuse not to get out your pencil, pencil sharpener and rubber and take part in the **Big Draw**, a nationwide series of free art events taking place all over Britain next October. Everyone's welcome: all you need is a willingness to express yourself through drawing.

The **Big Draw**, now in its fifth year, has already achieved two world records: one for the longest drawing in the world (1 km) and the other for the greatest number of people drawing at the same time (7,000). This year, there will be an attempt to create a new Guinness World Record for the longest visitors' book: people will be invited to leave their name and a drawing on a three-kilometre piece of paper.

The theme this year is *Inside/Outside – People, Structures and Spaces*, and other events planned include drawing in the sand at Weston-super-Mare, and drawing self-portraits on helium balloons which will then be released to see how far they will travel.

The **Big Draw** is not about turning the nation into artists, it is about helping people to acquire this universal language of communication. Its greatest achievement next October will be to bring hundreds of thousands of people together to look, imagine, draw and *have fun!*



3 Read the article again in sections and choose the best option, A, B, C or D.

- When we are babies we express ourselves by
 - A learning to write.
 - B making marks on paper. ✓
 - C painting pictures of the world.
 - D enjoying language.
- What does the writer say about the history of culture?
 - A Writing is an older human activity than drawing.
 - B Mathematics is the oldest human activity.
 - C Drawing and mathematics developed at the same time.
 - D Drawing came before writing or mathematics.
- What does the writer say about learning to draw?
 - A It requires special ability which only a few people have.
 - B It's easier than learning to write.
 - C You can do it if you keep your eye on the pencil.
 - D Anyone can do it.
- Who is the Big Draw for?
 - A People who didn't draw when they were children.
 - B People who would like to try drawing.
 - C People who can't draw.
 - D People who want to create a world record.
- The Big Draw already holds a world record for
 - A the length of time spent on a drawing.
 - B the number of visitors to the event.
 - C the number of people drawing at the same time.
 - D the number of balloons released on one day.
- Which is the correct advertisement for this year's Big Draw event?
 - A Come and have fun practising your drawing skills. You'll get a chance to join lots of other people writing and drawing on an enormous piece of paper.
 - B Come and have fun practising your drawing skills. There'll be an exciting opportunity to travel in an air balloon with other artists.
 - C Come and have fun practising your drawing skills. You'll get a chance to work with lots of other people drawing enormous pictures on public buildings.
 - D Come and have fun practising your drawing skills as you explore the beautiful town of Weston-super-Mare.

EXAM PART
Reading Part 4

EXAM SKILLS
Answering
multiple-choice
questions

TOPIC
Drawing

TIME
50 minutes

KEY LANGUAGE
Describing skills

Words for feelings

PREPARATION
One photocopy of
the activity page for
each student

Photocopies of the
facial expressions and
words on this page,
and the pictographs
on pages 139-140 for
each student (for the
Follow up)