

Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue

4.4 The art gallery

The students are curators of an art gallery with a certain sum of money to spend and must agree on new acquisitions.

LEVEL	Upper elementary upwards
TIME	20 minutes
AIM	To train students to choose from a set of alternatives in small informal groups.
LANGUAGE	Functions: expressing likes and dislikes, persuading.
ORGANIZATION	Pairs, or groups of up to five students.
PREPARATION	Choose a set of postcard reproductions which are likely to evoke both positive and negative responses from your students. Blu-Tack these to the wall of the classroom, with an imaginary sales price written underneath each picture.
WARM-UP	If you have a catalogue of an art exhibition which you do not mind cutting up, you can circulate the list of catalogue descriptions, and ask the students to match the pictures as they are passed around the class. In this way you can focus the attention of the class on paintings, and also feed in the necessary vocabulary they will need to discuss their choices in the main activity.
PROCEDURE	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Divide the class into pairs, or groups of up to five students.2 Explain the following situation: the groups are curators of an art gallery and they have a budget to spend. (This must not be more than half of the total price of the pictures you have Blu-Tacked to the wall.)3 Ask the students to look at the pictures and decide which ones

they wish to acquire for their gallery, without going over their budget.

- 4 Give the groups time to discuss the paintings, and then ask each group to present their final choices to the rest of the class, with the reasons for their choices.

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