**Nepal - Secondary School Lesson Plan**

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| Descriptions |
| **Overview:**  Being able to describe a picture in words is a great skill and a good opportunity to develop English vocabulary. Using photos from experiences they have been through will allow the students to explore other aspects behind the photographs – the smells, sounds and other elements – to bring into their descriptions. |
| **Objectives:**   * To convert a visual image into words * To draw an image based on a description |
| **Prerequisites:**   * Knowledge of English grammar terms – nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs |
| **Hook:**  Show the students a slide show of photos from the Heartquake website |
| **Activities:**   * **Create a list of words** – Give each student a print of a photo. Tell them to keep it secret and not show the other students. Some of the students can have the same photos. Ask the students to write a list of at least 20 adjectives, 20 nouns and 10 verbs to describe the photo in front of them. * **Describe** – Have the students choose one part of their photo and describe it in 10 sentences. They must include as much detail as possible, including how they imagine it might sound, smell, feel to be standing there in the photo. And also positions of items – next to, to the right of etc. Then collect the photos. * **Draw** – In pairs, ask the students to sit back to back, leaning on each other’s backs. Give each student a piece of blank paper and a pencil. One student starts by reading their description allowed and their partner must draw what they think the photo looks like based on the description. Then they swap and the other person draws a picture based on their partner’s description. The students reveal their drawings to their partner – they will probably laugh at the differences with the original photo. * **Rewrite** – Students can then go back to their descriptions and add more details, correct some details and make their description more accurate. * **Discuss** – Explore with the students the importance of descriptions, how our words can change our views of things, and the power of words to explore different perspectives. |
| **Resources:**  Photos from the Heartquake website, A4 paper, coloured pencils |
| **Assessment/home work:**  Ask the students to try this activity at home by asking a family member to draw the picture using their revised description. Ask them to bring the family member’s drawing to class. The student should write a paragraph reflecting on why the drawing is different from the original photo. |

**Teacher Notes**

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| **Duration of the Lesson:**  2-3 x 40 min classes | | |
| **Topic:**  Heartquake | **Lesson Heading:**  Descriptions and perspective | |
| **Background of the importance of the topic:**  Often Nepali students write very basic sentences without descriptive words. This lesson gives them the opportunity to expand their descriptions and understand the role of adjectives and clear descriptions while also expanding their vocabulary and confidence in their writing. | | |
| **Things to think about when preparing your lesson:**  Descriptions give depth to our lives and our writing. Encourage your students to play with words and try out different nouns and adjectives – colours, shapes, positions etc | | |
| **Challenges which may be faced and coping strategies:** | | |
| Potential Challenges:  The students may not have sufficient words in their vocabulary to describe the photos.  Some students aren’t confident in their drawing skills. | | Coping Strategies:  Have a back-up list prepared which you can add to if the students don’t come up with enough words in their initial lists  Reassure the students that this is not an art competition. It is about putting the different elements together on the page in response to the description as much as possible. |