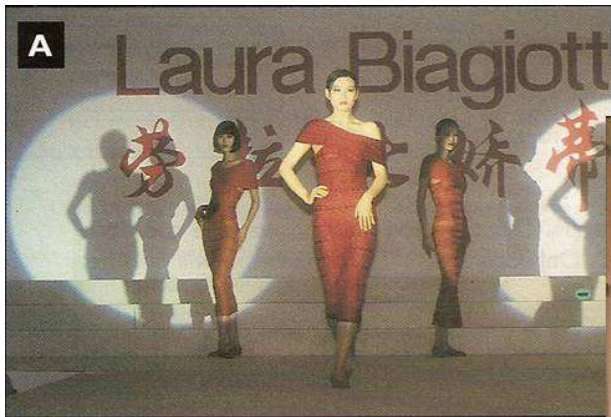


FCE SPEAKING EXAM PRACTICE

JOBS

Look at pictures A and B and describe the jobs the two people are doing.



Picture A shows ... whereas picture B shows ... They both show... They remind me of...

Additional discussion questions

What difficulties do you think the person in picture B faces in her working day?

I imagine ... Also, I suppose ...

Do you think the job in picture A is as glamorous and exciting as it looks?

It depends ... The best thing about it is ... but ... / Personally, I think that ...

Which job is more rewarding (befriedigender)? Why?

I would rather work as a... because ...

What personal qualities do you think are needed for each job?

I suppose that... and also ...

In your opinion, which job has better long-term career prospects (Zukunftsaussichten)?

Well, I think that ... In my opinion, ... because

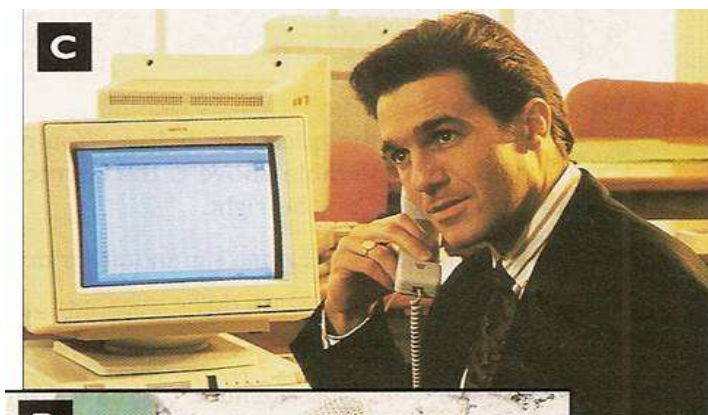
Do you believe that earning a lot of money is more important than job satisfaction? Why?

It depends ... Yes, I agree ... / No, I don't agree. In my opinion, ...

Useful words

personal satisfaction
well-paid
interesting
long training
qualifications
experience
patience
intelligence
glamour
beauty
calm
under pressure
personal
responsibility
young
attractive
slim
a good figure

Look at pictures C and D and describe the jobs the two people are doing.



*Picture C is a photograph of ... and picture D is a photograph of ... They both show...
They remind me of...*

Additional discussion questions

Which person do you think enjoys his job most?

I imagine that ... because ...

Which job do you think is most stressful? Why?

I think that ... It depends on...

Which occupation do you think requires the most training and experience?

I suppose ...

Do you think that you would enjoy an outdoor job or do you want to work in an office?

I would like ... because ... Well, I think that ... because ...

Which of the jobs would you prefer to do and why?

Well, I'd like ... because ...

Which job would you not like to do? Why?

I don't like ... much ... so ...

Would you like to work abroad? Why?

Well, I think ...

How important is a knowledge of English for finding a job?

I suppose that ...

Useful words

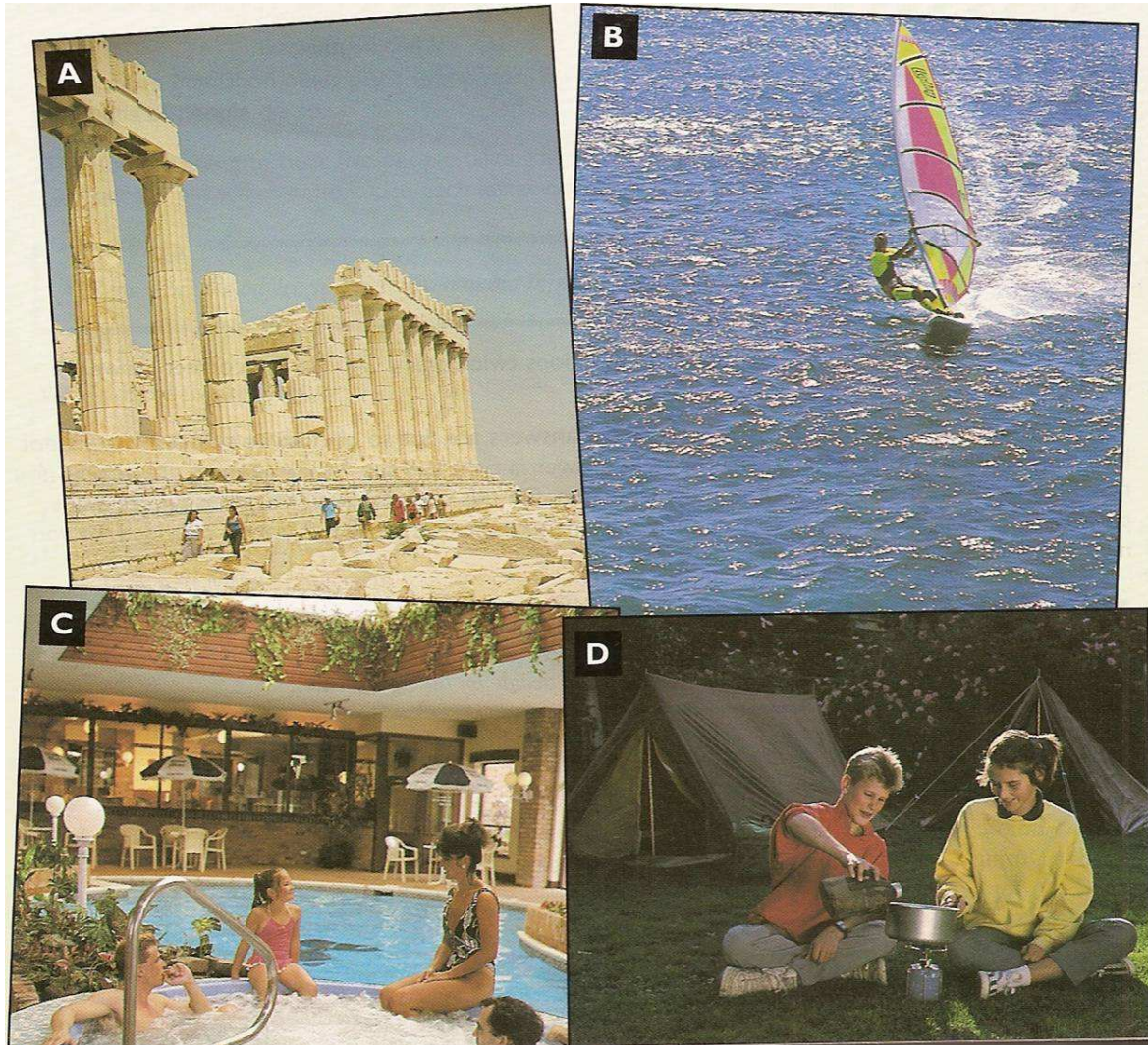
fresh air
independent
self-employed
tough
brave
bad weather
hard life
employee
career prospects
ambition
mentally demanding
challenging

Further practice

Now ask and answer questions about the job you would like to do when you leave school, such as what extra training you need, what the job involves, why you want the job, if it's difficult to get the job, which school subjects will be most useful to you, etc.

HOLIDAY

Look at pictures A and B and describe the kind of holiday they represent.



Picture A shows ... ; this is the kind of holiday where you ... whereas picture B ...

Additional discussion questions

Which of the two holidays would you enjoy most? Why?

I think I'd enjoy ... because ...

Explain why you would not be so interested in the other kind of holiday.

Well, I'm not very keen on .. / I don't particularly like ...

Have you ever been on a holiday like the one shown in picture A or B? If so, what was it like?

I remember ... It was (not) what I expected. .. First of all, ... and then. ..

Why do you think holidays are important?

There are many reasons why. First of all, ...

Look at pictures C and D. Compare and contrast the two different types of holiday shown.

Additional discussion questions

Which holiday looks more attractive to you? Why?

Have you ever been on a holiday like the kind shown in pictures C or D? Where? Did you enjoy the experience?

Do you think that holidays have to be expensive to be enjoyable?

Would you prefer to go on holiday with your friends or with your family?

Do you prefer beach holidays or educational and cultural holidays? Why?

Do you prefer to be on a holiday where everything is done for you or where you have to look after yourself? Explain why.

Do you think that some holidays are more suitable for older people and others for younger people? Explain your answer.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of tourism.

What can we learn from going on holiday abroad?

Useful words

adventure

educational

uncomfortable

luxury hotel

exciting

dangerous

have to be strong/fit/brave

take risks

cultural

go sightseeing

learn about the past history

archaeology

out in the open (*in der freien Natur*)

doing things for yourselves

living together

you are free to do as you like

package tour

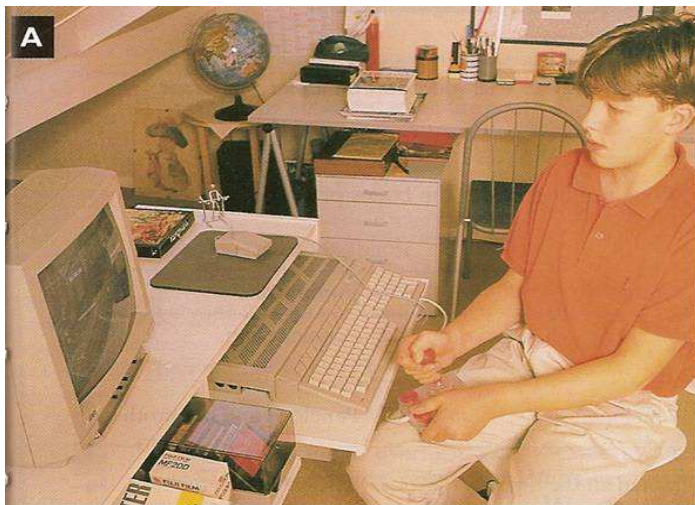
everything is provided

overcrowded

you are told what to do

LEISURE TIME

Look at pictures A and B. Compare and contrast the two leisure activities.



Picture A shows ... but ...

Additional discussion questions

Which activity appeals to you most? Why?

I would rather ... because ...

What sort of person do you think would enjoy doing the leisure activity in picture B?

I suppose ...

Do you prefer physically challenging or mentally creative leisure activities?

I prefer ... , such as ... , because ...

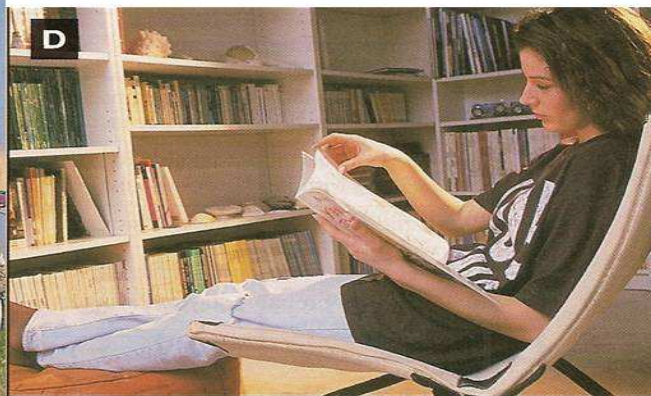
Do you like outdoor leisure activities more than indoor ones? Why (not)?

I like ... because ... / I like both but I prefer ...

How much time do you have to spend on your favourite leisure activity?

Well, it depends ... / Sometimes I have ... / Not as much as I'd like because ...

Look at pictures C and D. Compare and contrast the leisure activities shown.



Picture A shows ... but ...

Additional discussion questions

Which free time activity appeals to you most? Why?

Do you prefer to spend your free time alone or with other people?

How important is leisure time in your life? Why?

Would you be happy if life was all free time?

AND:

Are there any leisure activities that you would like to do but have never tried?

Are there any leisure activities which do not appeal to you at all? Explain why you don't want to try them.

Why is it important to spend some time in the day relaxing?

Do you think that leisure activities have to be expensive to be enjoyable? Why (not)?

Useful words

is/have a break from everyday routine

sport games

team activity

(do) exercise

healthy

fitness

creative skill(s)

do things together

part of a team

sociable

it broadens the mind

outdoors

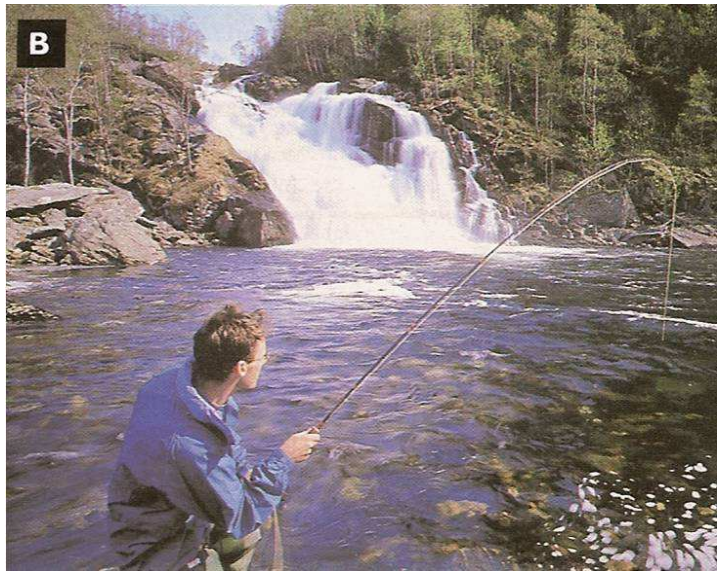
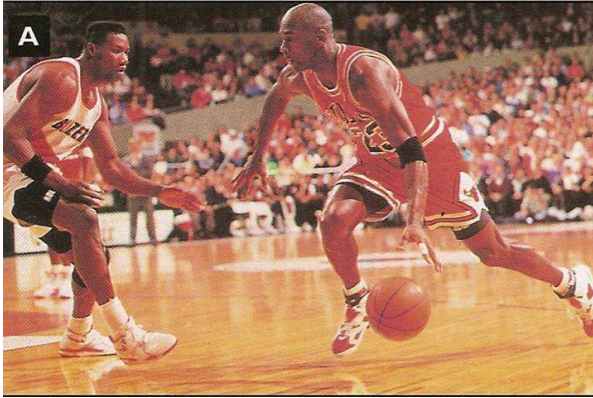
exciting

do sth / be by myself

I wouldn't mind trying ...

SPORTS

Look at pictures A and B and describe the scene in each picture.



In the first picture there is ... whereas ...

The main/Another difference between picture A and picture B is that ...

Additional discussion questions

What personal qualities are needed for the sport in each picture?

I would imagine that ... whereas ...

Have you ever tried either of these sports? If not, would you like to try either of them?

I've tried ... / I haven't tried ... but I'd love to ... / I'm not keen on ...

Do you prefer to take part just for fun or to compete with others? Why (not)?

Would you rather play in a team game or do something on your own?

What are the advantages of taking regular exercise?

CONVERSATION PRACTICE:

Now try to develop a conversation with a partner. Remember to ask your partner questions, such as 'what do you think?', 'do you agree?', 'what's your opinion?'.

Do you think people play enough sport or take enough exercise?

How can people be encouraged to take more regular exercise?

Do you think that too much sport can be bad for your health? Why/How?

Should the government give financial support to professional sports people? Why (not)?

Should dangerous sports be allowed?

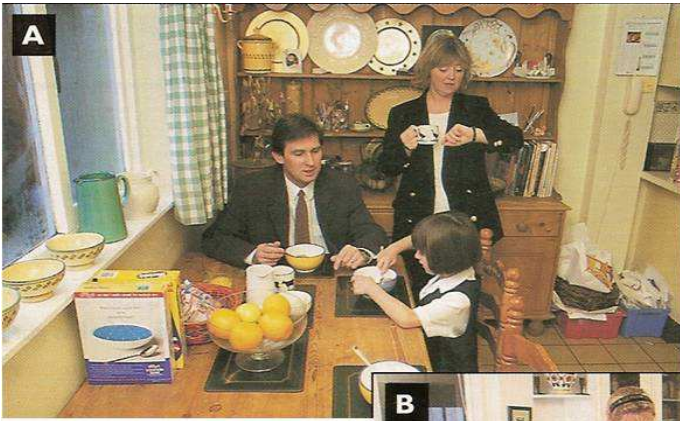
Do you think sport is an important part of the school timetable? Why (not)?

Useful words

basketball player
fisherman
excited fans
coach
away
match
qualify
championship
indoors
outdoors
countryside
team spirit
team sports
co-ordination
energetic
relaxing
physical fitness
sociable
patient
calm
benefits
national pride
stadium
lake
river
competitiveness
exciting
healthy
positive attitude
time to think

FAMILY

Look at pictures A and B of two families having breakfast and compare them.



The first picture shows ... but in the second picture ...

Additional discussion questions

What are mealtimes like in your home?

Usually we ... / Usually mealtimes at our house are ...

It depends. Sometimes we ... but at other times we ...

Which family group is most similar to your own family?

Well, I suppose that ... / In our family ...

What are the advantages and disadvantages of growing up in a large family?

I think ... but ...

What difficulties do you think working mothers face?

I imagine that ...

Do you think that grandparents have an important role in the family? Why?

In my opinion, ... I think that grandparents are important because ...

Do you enjoy large family gatherings or do you prefer to see members of your family on their own? Why?

I enjoy / I prefer ... It depends ... Sometimes ...

Useful words (family life in general)

grandparents

family members

in a hurry

going to work/school

suit (Anzug)

school uniform

everyone talking at the same time/no one talks

we eat at different times/together

someone/no one to play with

noisy

too many people around

lonely

only child

working mothers

pressure of work

too much to do

too busy to play with

grandparents can look after...

plenty of time for family

can have a more interesting conversation with one person

enjoy seeing all the family together

rivalry (Rivalität)

jealous/jealousy

lonely/loneliness

a good sense of humour

spoilt (verwöhnt)

strict

to have a row/fight ('streiten')

to share your parents' attention

to have a good laugh (es lustig haben / gemeinsam lachen über etwas)

to trust someone

to rely on someone

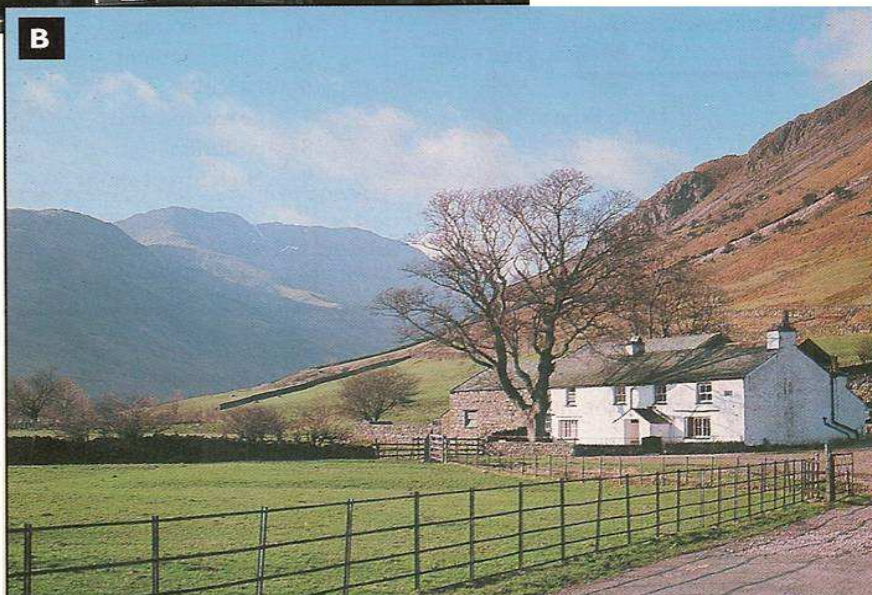
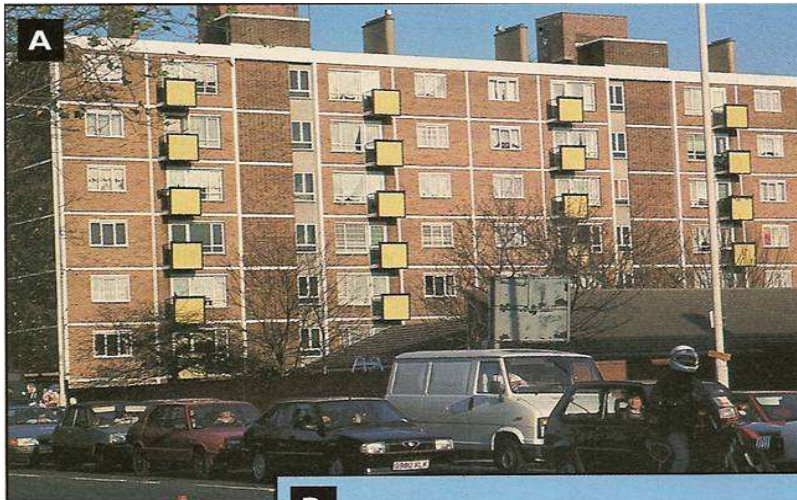
to make fun of

to have interests in common

to be overprotective of someone

YOUR HOME

Look at pictures A and B and describe them.



Well, picture A shows ... but picture B shows ... In the right/left hand corner ... / In the foreground/background, I can see ...

Additional discussion questions

Which home would you rather live in? Why?

I would rather live in. .. because ... I would prefer to live in. .. because ...

What kind of people might be living in each house? Why?

I suppose ... It looks like the kind of house where ...

In your opinion, which home would be more expensive to maintain? Why?

In my opinion because... I suppose that. .. because ...

What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in a city / town / village?

I think the advantages of living in a town are ... and the disadvantages are ...

Do the benefits of living in the countryside outweigh the difficulties?

Well, I think so because there are many benefits, such as ...

I don't think so because there are many disadvantages, like ...

If you could change one thing in your house/room, what would it be?

I would like to change/replace/buy a new ...

Useful words

block of flats

apartment

farmhouse

cottage

detached/semi-detached house

modern in good/poor condition

balcony

rural surroundings

countryside

peaceful

natural beauty

fresh air

urban

noisy

pollution

neighbours

local community

city centre

nothing to do

lonely

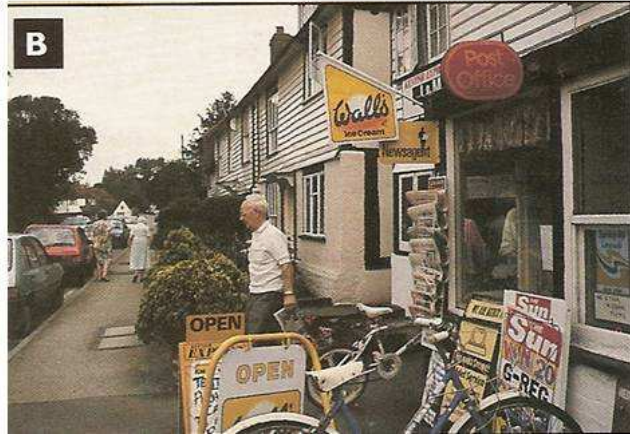
far away from town

there's a lot going on

plenty to do

(in)expensive (costs a lot) to maintain

YOUR HOMETOWN



Look at pictures A and B and compare the different shopping areas.

In picture A I can see ... but picture B shows...

Additional discussion questions

Which area would you like to go shopping in?

I'd like to... because I'd prefer ...because / I'd rather go ...

Do you enjoy shopping?

I enjoy... , but ... I like / don't like ... but I agree that...

Do you prefer shopping on your own / with a friend?

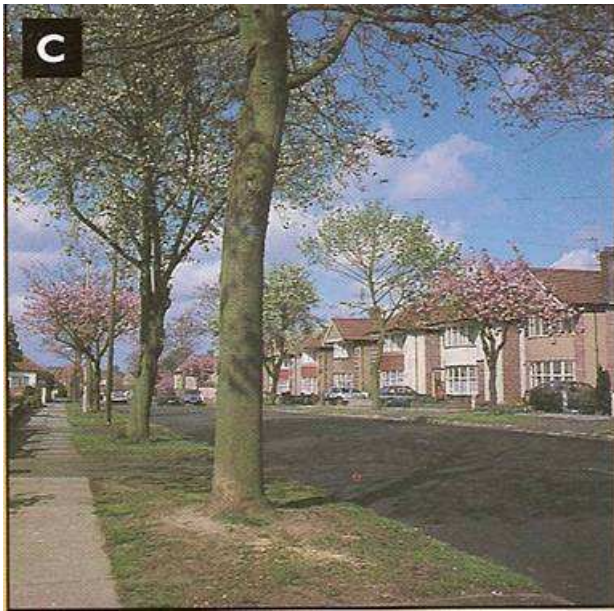
Yes, I do / No I don't I prefer ... / It depends Sometimes I ... but at other times ...

What's your shopping area like?

Well, ... It's (not) like the shopping area in picture ...

What improvements would you like to see in your shopping area?

I would like ...



Look at pictures C and D and describe them.

The first picture shows ... but ... There is/are also ..

Additional discussion questions

Which neighbourhood is most similar to your own?

Well, I suppose ...

What sort of contact do you think that somebody living in picture C has with their neighbours compared to somebody living in picture D?

I imagine that

How often do you see your neighbours? Where do you usually see them?

Well, I see ... Usually, ... / I don't see ...

What are the advantages or disadvantages of living in the accommodation represented in picture C?

I suppose that... Well, in my opinion, ...

What are the advantages or disadvantages of living in the accommodation represented in picture D?

Well, I think that ...

Useful words

shopping centre (Placette etc.)

department store (LOEB etc.)

busy city shopping area

local village shops

supermarket (Migros, Coop etc.)

corner shop ('kleiner Laden an der Ecke')

market

personal service

friendly atmosphere

helpful salespeople

convenient ('praktisch')

plenty of choice

cheaper

special discounts

not much choice

more expensive

accept credit cards

fashionable

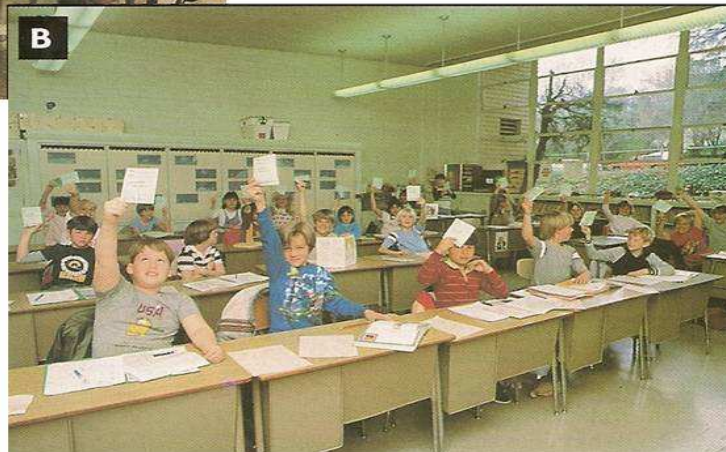
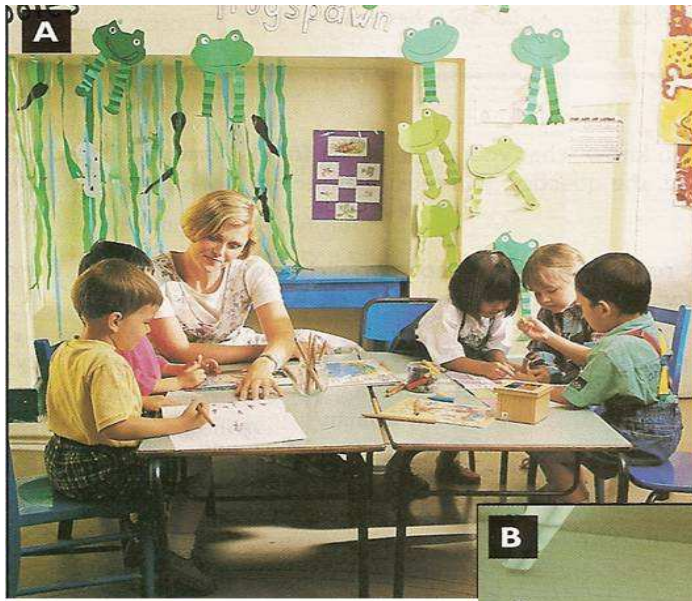
crowded/quiet

on foot

by car

SCHOOL AND EDUCATION

Look at pictures A and B and compare them.



In the first picture ... but ...

Yes, and there's also... The main difference is ...

Additional discussion questions

Which classroom arrangement is most similar to the one in your school?

Well, it's almost the same ... I It's quite different because ...

When you were younger, how were the desks arranged in your classroom?

Well, they were (not) similar to this ... Actually, our classroom was ...

Which classroom arrangement do you think is better? Why?

I think that ...

Are there any disadvantages to the arrangement you see in picture A?

In my opinion, the main disadvantage ...

Are there any disadvantages to the arrangement you see in picture B?

Well, perhaps a problem may be that ...

Does classroom environment affect the way you learn? How?

Yes, because ...

Do you think it's important that teachers are strict or can they be friendly?

Well, I think it's important that ... because ...

What's your favourite subject at school? Why do you like it?

Well, I like ... prefer ... because ...

Is there a subject not taught at your school which you would like to study? Why would you like to study it?

As far as I'm concerned, I'd like to study. . because ...

I think I'd like to study ... because ...

Are there any subjects at school which you don't think are necessary? Why?

In my opinion, ... Well, I think that ...

Useful words

in rows of desks (Pultreihen)

in groups

free to choose your seat

relaxed atmosphere

lack of discipline (Disziplinmangel)

(can be / should be) more disciplined

noisy

group work

ideas

working together/individually

quiet/noisy outside

temperature

fresh air

size

lighting (Beleuchtung / Lichtverhältnisse)

more modern subjects

relevant to my interests (bedeutsam/relevant für meine Interessen)

useful