

Listen and Draw and Compare



Level:

Beginner—Intermediate, can be adapted for higher levels



Objectives:

The student will be able to follow verbal instructions to draw a picture, correctly considering prepositions of place, vocabulary words, or other language targets



Timing

5-15 minutes, can be expanded further into a speaking exercise



Prep/

Materials:

Blank piece of paper with some pens/markers OR
Virtual whiteboard (for example, Jamboard)

1. Walk your student through step-by-step instructions to draw something based on specific vocabulary or grammar you are focusing on.
2. Let the student know that the focus is on their comprehension, not their artistry (though it is a great bonus!) They don't need to spend too much time drawing the details but should be detailed enough to demonstrate understanding.



Breakdown:

Here are some ideas for prompts:

For a student practicing prepositions, you can have them draw a house. Don't tell them what the final image should be, but ask them instead to:

- Draw a square in the center of your paper.
- Draw a triangle on top of the square.
- Draw a small rectangle inside the square, at the bottom.
- Draw a very small circle inside the rectangle, near the right side.
- Draw two smaller squares inside the square near the top.

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Once they are done, ask questions about their drawing to bring in a speaking or conversational element to the activity. Here are some ideas:

- How many windows does this house have?
- What do you call the triangle part on the top of the house?
- Does your home look like this? What elements are missing?

To practice a furniture themed vocabulary set, for example, you could have your student draw the inside of their living room. Tell them to:



Breakdown:

- Draw a couch with a great view of the TV
- Draw an armchair off to one side
- Draw a small pillow on the couch
- Draw a bigger pillow on the floor for the dog to rest on
- Draw a coffee table, with some books on top

To bring cultural speaking element to the activity, you could ask your student to compare what they have drawn to the homes in their home or host country! This is a great way to build a connection with your student and learn about their culture and traditions.

The activity doesn't need to be about homes or living room vocabulary, it's just one example. Use this activity to practice whatever you're currently working on—it makes a great warm-up!