

**Topics**

Cultural events, local festivals

**Aims**

- To complete and practise an FCE-type cloze exercise.
- To listen for specific information
- To speak about a festival
- To make their own comprehension questions
- To write about a festival, using an image as a stimulus.
- To read classmates stories and answer questions.

**Age group**

14+

**Level**

B2+

**Time**

Approximately 40-60 minutes

**Materials**

1. [Audio file](#)
2. [Image](#) (After lunch)

**Introduction**

This activity is designed to encourage students to develop their higher-level critical-thinking skills to speak about images.

The focus in this series of activities is integrated skills, in the context of local festivals.

**Procedure**

1. Hand out the Cambridge FCE-type multiple-choice gap-fill using the audioscript. You can find this on the Student worksheet. Ask the students to work on their own to read the script and complete the exercise. When they have finished ask them to check their answers with

a partner

Answers:

1. up
2. in
3. quite
4. together
5. stalls
6. plenty
7. of eating
8. actually
9. involved
10. some
11. in
12. why

2.	Play the recording for students to listen and check. Play a second time if necessary then go through the answers with the students
3.	Ask students to read the completed text and, working in pairs, work together to draw a picture showing what they think is in the photograph.
4.	Show students the original photograph and award points for the students' drawings that are most similar to the original.
5.	Ask students what questions they think the photographer answered when talking about the photograph. Brainstorm their ideas onto the board.
6.	<p>Students choose another photograph from the set <i>Festivals</i>  <a href="http://www.flickr.com/photos/eltpics/sets/72157628271215967/">(http://www.flickr.com/photos/eltpics/sets/72157628271215967/)</a></p> <p>Ask them to write a short story about their chosen photo (between 120-180 words), being sure to answer as many of the questions on the board as possible.</p>
7.	<p>Extension/Homework:</p> <p>Ask students to create a 5-question multiple-choice gap-fill for their text. Tell them to focus on the typical examples that would appear in an FCE Use of English part 1 (fixed phrases,</p>

collocations, phrasal verbs, etc.)

When they have finished they should exchange their text with a partner and complete their partner's gap-fill exercise.

### Contributors

Activity and photograph by: Fiona Mauchline

### Transcript

I took this photo a couple of years ago in the square, er, in front of the cathedral, which is very near my house, about a minute up the hill. I live in a town in, in the west of Spain, about halfway between Madrid and Lisbon and, er, and it's really quite a beautiful town; it's got a Medieval part, which is where I live, and and every year there are events to celebrate the tradition of the three cultures here, um, the Arab, the Jewish and the Christian cultures that lived together in this area, every, every November I think it is, there's a Medieval market and in the cathedral square, various people, quite a lot of them are Portuguese actually, come and set up food stalls. You get a lot of barbecue places, um, like open fires with ribs and meat and peppers and things, and then there's, um, ah there's this amazing Portuguese stall, with white wine, **hot** white wine with fruit floating in it, there're plenty of home-made cakes, sweets, fruit...it's really nice, very, well, Medieval!

Anyway, I went for lunch with my younger son and he really loved the big plates of barbecued meat and the very Medieval way of eating with just fingers and, well, ok, with serviettes, but fingers was the main thing. We went twice, but this photo was actually taken the second day. Ehm, I took it because, you know, looking under the table, you can see the combination of ... not so much cultures but **times**; you've got the really old paving, the stones and the ..the more modern metal benches and tables. There's also all the lines involved, I like taking photos with lots of lines for some reason, I dunno. Ehm, you've also got the contrast between the bones, you can see some bones there on the right, bread, the basket, and they're in contrast with the plastic plate, the plastic cup, the soft drinks cans, again it's the historical and the more modern.

But I also took it because it's that kind of 'after the event' picture, you can see that there've been a lot of people there, eating, but, but, you know, it's cold, the ground is wet, and everybody's gone. It's the 'after the party's over' shot, so that's really why I took it, it just seemed to be a picture that... told a story.