

Topics

Travel, famous monuments

Aims

- To speculate about reasons (speaking)
- To give reasons (speaking)
- To listen for specific information
- To discuss famous monuments
- To speak about the students' home town or area

Age group

14+

Level

B2+

Time

Approximately 40-60 minutes

Materials

1. [Audio file](#)
2. [Image](#) (Escape #3)

Introduction

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

The focus in this lesson is on speaking and listening skills, and students discuss famous monuments from their home country and abroad.

Procedure

1.	Show students the photograph. Ask them to imagine they are the photographer and think about why they took this photograph. Allow students to take notes on their reasons and help with vocabulary as required.
2.	Students mingle around the classroom and exchange reasons and explanations. With large groups, divide the class into two groups, A and B. Students mingle within their group then work in A/B pairs and report their group's reasons to a partner.
3.	<p>As students listen to the different explanations, they choose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the most plausible / reasonable • the funniest / most original <p>Students report back to the class, telling them which two explanations they have chosen and why. Write the most popular explanations on the board (there may be more than two in total).</p>
4.	Play the recording. Ask students to listen and decide if any of the explanations were correct.
5.	<p>Ask if students recognise the names of any of the places mentioned and if so, what they know about them. Play the recording a second time and ask students to write the names of places in London that the speaker mentions.</p> <p>Ask students to name other places in London they have heard of and say what they liked/didn't like about them as well as their general impressions of London, either known or imagined.</p>
6.	Ask students to imagine that they are going to do the same as the speaker, but in their town, city or country. Ask students to work in pairs to choose where they would take photographs.
7.	<p>Conduct feedback as a whole class, asking students to justify their choices. Write the names of the places on the board and vote for the most popular five.</p> <p>Optional homework task: If students have chosen places in their city or town, ask them to choose one location. They should go to this location and create a voice or video recording with their mobile phones about why they have chosen that specific location. They should bring their recordings to the following class to show their classmates.</p>
8.	<p>Extension & follow up: Students look at the <i>Important Buildings</i> set http://www.flickr.com/photos/eltpics/sets/72157625621968191/ from ELTPics and choose</p>

Teacher's notes

four or five places that would like to take photos with the monkey. Ask them to justify their choices. This can be done as a speaking or writing activity.

Contributors

Activity by: Fiona Mauchline

Photograph by: Phil Bird

Transcript**Phil**

This picture was taken in 2007. As you can probably see, it was taken right in front of Buckingham Palace, the Queen's London residence.

Um, there is a bit of a story behind it, as you might imagine. My wife and I were in central London and we were looking for a present for Father's Day for my father-in-law. Um, my father-in-law lives in Argentina, and he's really interested in lots of things to do with London so, anyway.

So we managed to buy the chocolate monkey that you can see in the photo – it says *Number One Dad in the World* on it - and then we were walking around, just shopping and having a snack in a park and things and, I dunno, I just thought it'd be quite funny if we stuck it in a tree and took a photo. And then I thought it'd be good if we stuck it in front of Buckingham Palace and Big Ben and places, and took photos. I guess maybe it was inspired by the bit with the garden gnome sending postcards from different places, in the film *Amelie*, do you know it?

Interviewer

Yes, yes, it's a fun idea. I can't remember exactly how she did it in the film, though...

Phil

Well, I don't know, that's what **we** did, we walked to different places – Number Ten Downing Street where the Prime Minister lives, the park, Trafalgar Square...and took photos with the monkey. And we took a picture of it in front of Buckingham Palace.

He's very, my father-in-law's very interested in London, he's never been here but he loves to see pictures of it, so we thought he'd really appreciate this, so we printed out the photos to send with the chocolate monkey as a Father's Day present. And that's it!