



Critical eye eLesson

Week starting 26 March 2012

Metropolis

Level

Upper intermediate (equivalent to CEF level C1)

Language

Adjectives to describe a city; Connotation

Image work

Looking at an image from different perspectives

How to use the lesson

1 It's probably best to do these first two stages before giving out the worksheet. Put students into groups of three. If the numbers don't work out then have some groups of two (the A student will take the C role as well).

2 Show the image and ask the A learners to describe it, in English, for a minute. Circulate and listen to the language they use, making notes of persistent errors. Cover or take away the image after the minute is up.

Tell the B learners their role. Explain they shouldn't tell their partner the information on their card, they should simply describe the picture again in that role. Show the picture for a minute and circulate again, taking notes.

Repeat the process with the C learners (or A learners for groups that do not have a C).

Once everyone has spoken, then give out the worksheet.

3 Go over the language in the exercise. Allow learners to use dictionaries if necessary. Ask them they must try and categorise the words according to which role from exercise 2 would use them. Basically this means they need to decide which words are more positive in connotation and which ones are more negative. Some words might be neutral.

Answers may vary but here are suggested answers:

Positive adjectives (used by C): bustling, vibrant, gleaming, sparkling, cosmopolitan, alive, thrilling, secure, harmless

More negative adjectives (used by B): crowded (this one is more neutral), jammed, dirty, polluted, aloof, anonymous, terrifying, dodgy, hostile

Optional stage: Put students into new groups, and ask them to repeat the task from exercise 2. They should try and incorporate some of the new words. You could also introduce new roles, for example.

D: You are in a wheelchair.

E: You are a police officer and you spend almost every day answering emergency calls about robberies and crimes.

F: You are the owner of a business on this street. This day is the busiest shopping day of the year and you make lots of money.

4 Round off the activity by asking learners what they think of life in a big city.