

## A Special Photo

**Level:** All

**Age:** 7-12

**Organization:** whole class, individual, pairs

**Aims:** To describe a special photo; to say why the photo is special.

**Language focus:** *In the example:* be, present simple, present continuous, members of the family, clothes, adjectives to describe people, feelings, because

*Alternatives:* past continuous, past simple

**Materials:** *Essential:* you and each child bring a special photo to class

### Procedure

1. Write the following prompt questions on the board: Who is in the photo? Where are you/they? What are you/they wearing? Why do you like the photo?
2. Show the children your photo. Build up a description in response to the prompt questions and write this on the board, e.g. *This is a photo of my mother, my father, my sister and me. We are in the garden. My mother is wearing blue trousers. My father is wearing a red shirt. My sister is wearing green shorts. I'm wearing a yellow skirt. I like this photo because we're happy.*
3. Children then work individually and write a description of their special photo by answering the prompt questions and using the description of your photo as a guide.
4. At the end, divide the class into pairs and children show each other their photos and read their descriptions. These can then be displayed or made into a class album.

### Comments and Suggestions

- Children enjoy the personalization of this activity and the use of prompt questions helps them to organize and structure their writing.
- With older children and higher levels, you can adjust the prompt questions to make the activity more challenging, e.g.

Who took the photo? (context)

Why/Where/When did he/she take the photo?

What were the people wearing/doing ? (description)

How were they feeling?

Why is the photo special for you? (personalization)

An example of a description of a photo using these prompts is: My father took this photo at my grandmother's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday party last August. My grandmother was wearing a blue dress. She was opening her presents. My cousin and brother were helping her. My dog was playing with the paper and barking. Everyone was laughing and feeling very happy. This photo is special for me because it was a great party.

- The opportunity to show and describe special photos in class helps children feel good about themselves and boosts their self-esteem.