



Level: A2

Focus: Grammar - Present Perfect

Theme: Good and bad news

Activity: Picture differences
information gap

WHAT'S NEW?

This is a sample class activity from lesson 12 of *Pen Pictures 2* by Hancock and McDonald (Oxford University Press).

You will need to print out the picture page and cut it in half along the dotted line. You need one picture for each member of the class.

PROCEDURE

1. Ask students to think back over the last six months. What has happened to them in this time? What's new?
2. Put the students in pairs. Give the picture called "six months ago" to one student in each pair, and the picture called "now" to the other.
3. Ask students to look at their own pictures but not their partner's picture.
4. Tell students that their pictures are very similar but not exactly the same. Tell them to describe their pictures carefully to each other and find 11 differences. You could demonstrate how to begin with a volunteer:
You (with "6 months" pic): In my picture, the weather's good and the sky is blue.
Volunteer (with "now" picture): Oh. In my picture, the sky's grey and it's snowy.
You: Ok, so that's one difference!
(If students don't know a word for something they want to say, encourage them to try to find a different way to describe it)
5. Go through the answers with the class. Encourage them to express their differences using the present perfect:
Student: The weather is sunny in my picture and snowy in my partner's.
You: Ok, so the weather has changed, right?
Student: Yes, the weather has changed.

Answers: She's failed her exam. She's made her model dinosaur. She's broken her guitar. Her spider has escaped. She's broken her arm. She's changed her hairstyle. She's got a new music player. She's tidied her wardrobe. She's painted her chair. One fish has eaten the other fish. Her plant has grown.

6. Writing: Ask students to look at the events in the girl's life and say which are good news and which are bad news (and which are neither good nor bad). Now ask them to imagine the girl's writing to her English pen friend with all her news. Ask them to write her letter.
7. You could play the audio for this activity as a follow up check to this writing activity.

6 months ago



now



Activity taken from Pen Pictures 2 (Oxford University Press)