

**Topics**

Holidays, love, change.

**Aims**

- To listen for specific information
- To write a story
- To read for pleasure, and to compare stories

**Age group**

14+

**Level**

B2+

**Time**

40-55 minutes (plus optional homework)

**Materials**

1. [Audio file](#)
2. [Image file](#) (summer love)

**Introduction**

This activity is designed to encourage students to develop their higher-level critical-thinking skills to speak about images. The activity is part of a package of materials, which includes audio to help students develop their listening skills.

The lesson incorporates integrated skills, with a focus on story-telling.

**Procedure**

1. Show students the image and ask them to think about the answers to the following questions:
  - Where was the photographer and why was he/she there? What time of year was it?
  - What does the image symbolise?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What has happened since the photo was taken?</li> </ul> <p>Put students in pairs or threes to compare their ideas.</p> <p>Brainstorm students' ideas onto the board.</p>
2.	<p>Tell students they are going to write the story of <i>The Heart in the Sand</i>. In threes, they discuss and choose the ideas from the board that they wish to include in their story.</p>
3.	<p>Students write their stories individually. Monitor and help while they work.</p>
4.	<p>With a small class, collect in the stories and place them on a table for everyone to gather round and read.</p> <p>With larger groups, collect in the stories and distribute them on two or three tables. Divide the class into two or three groups and ask each group to read the stories on one of the tables.</p> <p><i>Optional activity:</i></p> <p>Each student chooses one story that they enjoyed reading and summarises it to a student from a different group.</p>
5.	<p>Tell students they are going to hear the photographer speaking about the photo and they should listen for her answers to the questions from stage 1. Play the recording. Discuss Mieke's answers to the questions.</p> <p>Play the recording again and ask students if any of their stories are similar.</p> <p>Play a final time and ask students to listen out for two similarities to and two differences from their own story. Discuss as a class. Find out which story they like best: Mieke's or one of the stories from the class.</p>
6.	<p>Show students the ELTpics set called <i>Every picture tells a story</i> (<a href="http://www.flickr.com/photos/eltpics/sets/72157626599491389/">http://www.flickr.com/photos/eltpics/sets/72157626599491389/</a>) and ask them to choose a picture to write about.</p> <p>Students should answer the three questions in 1 and use them to write a story for a local magazine.</p>

### Contributors

Activity by: Fiona Mauchline  
Photograph by: Mieke Kenis

## Transcript

### Sandy

I took this photo when I was on holiday with my friend Kate. We were in the British Lake District, in the north west of England, between Lancaster and Scotland. We were walking through the village of Hawkshead and looking at the houses... It's a very pretty village and a very famous English poet, William Wordsworth, went to school there... and, um, yeah, we were walking through this village Hawkshead and I saw this little staircase. Do you see it? And, um, it made me laugh because it seemed pretty pointless. I mean, look! Why did they build that?! You can see that there's no door for it to go to.... Isn't it funny?

So it made me wonder how long it had been there, and why did they build it – you know, where was it going to go to originally - and who built it – can you imagine building a staircase and then going 'Oh! Where's the door? Oops'..... I don't know, it's funny, I mean, did they forget to put in a door? Or did they take the original door away? But then why did they decide to keep the staircase when they'd obviously got rid of the door?!

So, yeah, it was a good holiday, I really enjoyed it and Hawkshead was really nice and very typical of the Lake District, so the photo's just a holiday snap, but also it's funny, it's one of those funny things you see on holiday sometimes, and it makes me smile, AND, and yeah, it reminds me of a great holiday.