

Activity	Visual and Musical Inspiration <i>Seeing with the ears</i>
Language(s)	Any
Level	All levels
Objectives	To improve communication through pictures and songs To foster perception and creativity

Procedure

- Select lots of pictures of different themes, i.e. landscapes, bridges, rivers and lakes, cities, country sides, animals, whatever..., but don't show them the learners.
- Prepare short sections of music of different styles – each one should not exceed more than 1 minute. It is advisable to have it copied on a pen drive or on a CD.
- Tell the learners that they are going to listen to music. The evoked emotions will be the basis for the next activity. Give the students a card per song they will listen to. Each card should be numbered. The song sections should be short, about 1-2 minutes.
- Tell them to close their eyes. Let them listen to the first music section – stop and ask them to make some notes of what they felt when listening to it (Example of questions: were the emotions pleasant or unpleasant? Have they seen pictures when listening to the music? Where were the pictures located? Were the words in the song decisive for the emotions? Would they like to talk about the evoked memories?).
- They have about 1 minute of time to take some notes. Let them come to the table where you have previously spread out the pictures. Ask them to choose a picture that somehow resembles what they have seen. Put them into pairs.
- Learners will discuss the differences of perception and emotions when listening to the same music. That might be due to the experiences or memories they have. Notes will be taken again.
- Play the next section of music – it is advisable to play a new music style. Proceed as before.
- You can play 2 or 3 sections of music taking in account to having enough pictures available for all learners.

Finally pairs will report about what they found out – differences and similarities. They will pin their numbered cards to be compared with the rest of the class.

Treasure box: Examples of pictures from free digital photos.net (or search for free pictures or under Creative Commons licensing.
Free music can also be found through an internet search.

Examples of pictures

FreeDigitalPhotos.net



"Bluebell Wood" by Rob Wiltshire



"Viewpoint Beautiful Mountain" by Photokanok



"Forest Eden" by prozac1



"Alpine Meadow" by Michal Marcol