

# Using a Photo book

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One of the best resources we can use for language learning is a book of photographs. Make it a priority to get a good set of pictures as early on in language learning as possible. The pictures will be especially useful for learning verbs and all the tenses, so make sure that you have lots of pictures of people doing different things. It is also good to have all ages represented in the photographs, and have some photographs with one person and some with two or more. Also include some family pictures which are especially helpful for talking about relationships.

Any time you don't know what to do in your lesson, get out your photo book and talk, talk, talk about the pictures. Here is a list of suggestions to get you started, but you will probably think of loads more ways to use your photos.

## Some ways to use your photo book:

1. Have your language helper go through and say something about each of the pictures. For example, she might name all the clothes, or she might say what each person is doing in the past tense. You can listen, or record for later listening practice.
2. Choose one picture. Have your language helper talk about the picture for a couple of minutes. Record what she is saying for listening practice. Listen to the recording with your language helper and ask for clarification on words and phrases that you didn't understand.
3. Choose one picture. Talk as much as you can about the picture while recording. Play back the recording with your language helper and have him correct your mistakes.
4. Use the pictures to drill verb tenses. Go through the pictures and tell your language helper what each person is doing. Your language helper can help and correct you.

**Things to learn from your pictures.** Put a check by each one when you can go through your photo book and say these things on your own.

1. Name people e.g. man, old lady, baby, child, girl etc.
2. Say "This is a man, this is a girl" etc.
3. Relationships e.g. sister, father, grandmother, grandchildren, friend, neighbour, colleague, teacher etc.
4. Say "This is my mother, that is her sister" etc.
5. Name all the colours.
6. Names of clothing.
7. Put colours with names of clothing e.g. red shirt, blue dress.
8. Use a close-up picture of someone's face to name at least ten body parts eye, eyebrow, cheek etc.
9. Use a picture to name at least ten body parts e.g. leg, knee, head etc.
10. Name other things that you can see in each picture.
11. Go through your photo book and use the present tense (present-future tense)\* to say whether each person is sitting, standing or walking. Use 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular i.e. "He is sitting, she is standing" etc.
12. Go through your picture book and say what each person is doing in the present tense (present-future tense).
13. Learn 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural and go to each picture where there is more than one person and say what they are doing in the present tense (present-future tense) e.g. "They are singing".
14. Learn how to put the verb in the 1<sup>st</sup> person singular and for each picture say "He is drinking and I am drinking". (Use present-future tense). You can do the actions too, to reinforce the meaning.
15. Repeat the above activity for 1<sup>st</sup> person plural i.e. "We are drinking".
16. Repeat the above activity for 2<sup>nd</sup> person singular i.e. "You are drinking."
17. Repeat the above activity for 2<sup>nd</sup> person plural i.e. "You are drinking."
18. Learn how to put a verb in the negative and use the verb sit to go through and say whether each person is sitting or not e.g. He is sitting, they are not sitting, etc.

19. Choose 2 other verbs, e.g. smiling, talking and repeat the above activity.
20. Say what each person is wearing e.g. "The girl is wearing a red dress".
21. Describe the clothing e.g. "This is a flowery dress. This is a short-sleeved shirt." etc.
22. Say how old each person is (just guess), or use a word like "approximately" or "probably".
23. Use at least one sentence to describe each person e.g. "This man has a beard. This is a short lady. The baby is cute." etc.
24. Learn past tense and go through saying what each person did.
25. Repeat the above activity using I, you, we, they.
26. Learn present continuous tense and say what each person is doing.
27. Repeat the above activity using I, you, we, they.
28. Use one picture to describe a person with as much detail as you can.

**Examples of more complex grammatical structures you can practice with your pictures:**

1. When this picture was taken, he was sitting.
2. Before I took this picture he was laughing.
3. After he laughed, he cried. After he washed the dishes, he sat down.
4. After he laughs, he will cry. After he washes the dishes, he will sit down.
5. Before he laughed, he sang. Before he washed the dishes, he ate dinner.
6. Before he laughed, he was singing. Before he washed the dishes, he was eating.
7. He is laughing because... He is drinking because...
8. He laughed because... He drank water because...
9. He is watching television. I like/don't like to watch television.
10. He is watching television. I want/don't want to watch television.
11. He was watching television. He shouldn't have been watch television.
12. He was watching television. I can't watch television.
13. He was watching television. Could we have watched television?
14. He is watching television. Would you like to watch television?
15. He was watching television. Would you have liked to watch television?
16. I think this man is laughing because ...

This list could go on and on. Try creating your own sentences and see how many different ones you can come up with.

\*In Tajik, it is best to learn the present continuous later because there are several different ways to say it. The present-future tense can be used to describe present and future. For example, мешинад can mean he sits or he will sit.