

## Low-cost visual Aids

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Those of us who teach beginners or pupils who are weak in English have found that carefully chosen pictures help the children's understanding of the language being presented or practised and as a rule are greatly enjoyed by the class. While certain published visual aids can be bought locally (e.g. **Federal Conversation Posters** (Federal Publications) \$90 per set, and Donn Byre's **Wall Pictures for Language Practice** (Longman) \$95 per set, they are expensive for schools with small budgets. While such aids are well designed and colourful, they often contain too much visual information for our purposes.

Magazine pictures are a well-established alternative. Your pupils can perhaps be persuaded to choose them for you and to look out for good big pictures on a given theme, such as animals or sports.

Another excellent, cheap (if unlikely) source of pictures is gift wrapping paper, currently available at most big department stores and shopping complexes (Metrojaya, Ampang Park etc in Kuala Lumpur). The most suitable designs seem to be produced by the Gordon Frazer Gallery and include:—

- a sheet of sports equipment
- a sheet of indoor games
- a sheet of different kinds of fruit
- a sheet showing a humorous version of jungle animals
- a sheet of birds of different shapes and colours drawn cartoon-style.

If you are able to use small visuals for wall sheets, or stuck on card for group or pair-work, there are two inexpensive publications that provide good raw material, apart from picture magazines. **Look and Learn ABC** (FEP) has excellent small colour photographs mostly of objects, and costs \$1.50. Buy two so that you can use the pictures on either side of each page. Secondly, two primary school textbooks on Health Education, **Ilmu Kesehatan untuk Sekolah Rendah Malaysia Darjah I ke II** (pub. Dewan Bahasa) at \$1.45 each, contain excellent colour photographs of Malaysian children doing everyday things such as eating, reading, sleeping, showering, playing football etc. Both publications are available from Anthonian Bookstore and no doubt from other good bookshops elsewhere. And an afterthought — TDC travel brochures are readily obtainable and contain many small pictures of well-known places and typical Malaysian activities.

The trouble you take in cutting and pasting will surely be repaid by your pupils' active response to such attractive pictures. And, most important, your expenses will be kept down. For about \$10 you can have a whole new kit of visual aids, both large and small.