

Describing diagrams

by Elena Filimonova, Aislyu Ryukova & Dina Valieva

Activity type: Describing game

Student grouping: Pairs

Time needed: 20 minutes approx.

Skills practised: Vocabulary and grammar review, listening comprehension, describing, paraphrasing and presenting information orally

Materials: One copy of the Diagram 1 and Diagram 2 worksheets per pair; two sheets of plain paper per pair

Summary: This speaking game practises students' ability to select and summarize information presented in the form of a diagram.

Preparation

Divide students into pairs. Give one student in the pair a copy of the Diagram 1 worksheet. The other student will need a blank sheet of paper and a pen/pencil. Explain that they are talking on the phone and the second student is not allowed to see the diagram on the worksheet.

How to play the game

The object of the game is to draw a precise picture of a diagram from only spoken instructions.

Allow the student with the diagram approximately two to three minutes to study it. Then, they must describe the diagram on the worksheet to their partner, who should draw an identical picture on their blank piece of paper. You may wish to set a time limit of, for example, five minutes.

The students then swap their roles and repeat the task again with the Diagram 2 worksheet.

When both students have drawn their diagrams, they should show each other their pictures and compare them to the original diagrams.

The student who draws the most precise picture wins.

Teaching notes

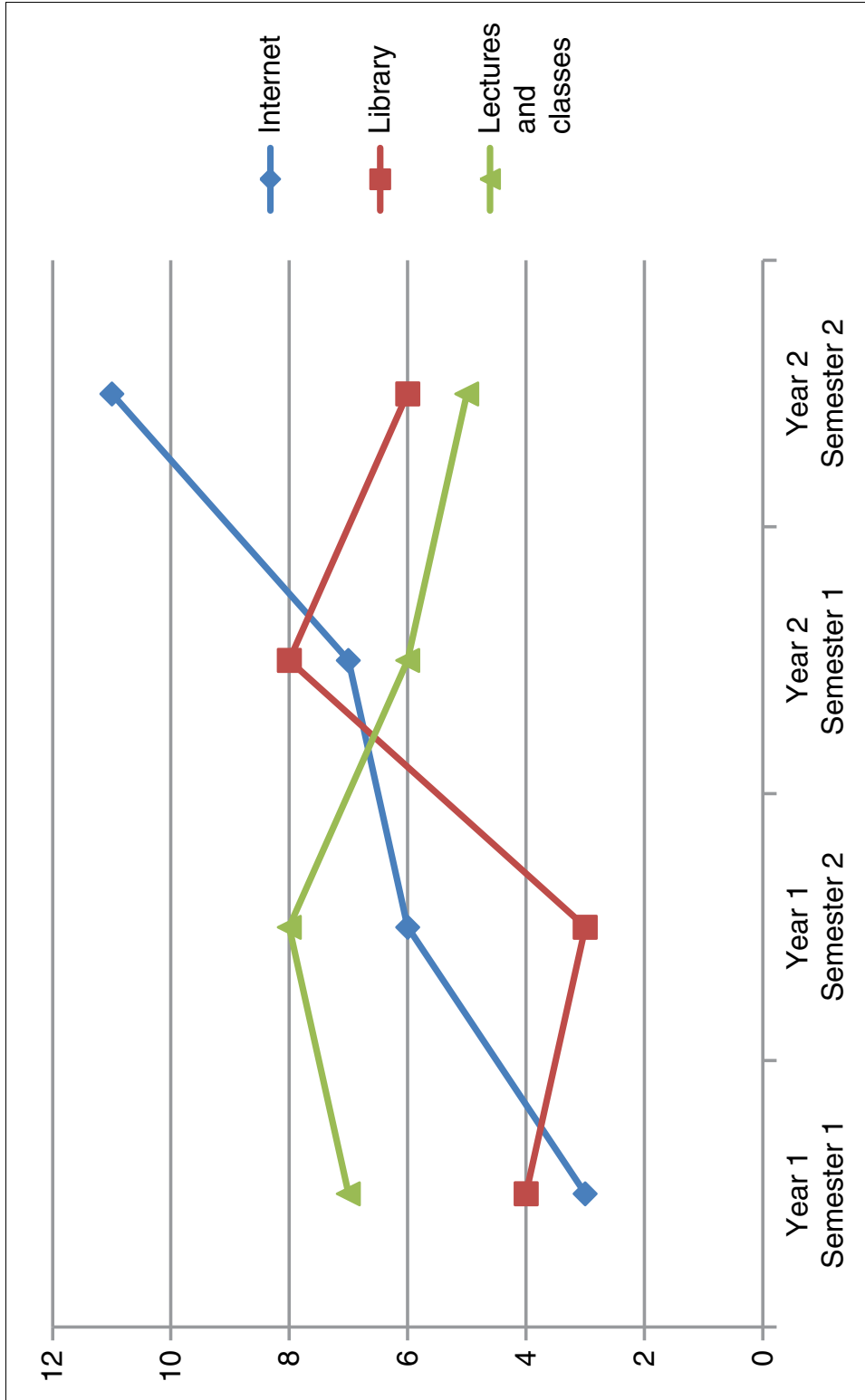
- The teacher may also decide to award extra points for grammar and vocabulary accuracy.
- In describing diagrams for the IELTS exam, students are required to not just read but also fully understand the information presented to them. This activity helps them to do that.
- A possible way of beginning the conversation: *Hello, sir/madam. My name is ... I'm from the Department of Statistics. Could you describe the data you've got? I need to copy it down urgently. Unfortunately, the internet isn't available at the moment.*
- Examples of key vocabulary: *line graph, diagram, present, show, data, decline, fall, go up, go down, increase, peak, vertical axis, horizontal axis, average, in comparison with*, etc.
- The worksheet contains a line graph and a bar chart; you may wish to try this activity with other types of diagrams that appear in the IELTS exam, such as pie charts and tables.

Describing diagrams

by Elena Filimonova, Aislyu Ryukova & Dina Valieva

FUN WITH IELTS DIAGRAM 1

Diagram 2: The graph shows the hours spent in different study methods during a two year course.



Describing diagrams

by Elena Filimonova, Aislyu Ryukova & Dina Valieva

FUN WITH IELTS DIAGRAM 2

Diagram 3: The bar chart shows the number of children in two different age groups in an average class in different countries.

