



Theme Picture #19: View from a Travel Agency Window

Target Vocabulary: airplane, ambulance, bicycle, bus, car, fire engine, helicopter, mail truck, moving van, police car, sailboat, school bus, ship, tow truck, trailer, train, truck

TEACHING TIP

Tap into students' prior knowledge. Ask if they have ridden in or seen various vehicles (e.g., airplane, bus, tow truck). Give them a chance to tell about their experiences. Take students on a "field trip" to the front of school. Ask students to describe the vehicles they see in the parking lot or passing by on the street.

INTERMEDIATE LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Show students the theme picture and say: **This is a picture of a busy street. We're inside a travel agency looking out through a window at the street. Sometimes when people want to travel, they go to a travel agency for help in getting their tickets and making their travel plans.**

Listening and Speaking

- Point to a vehicle in the picture. Have a student volunteer name the vehicle and describe where it is located in the picture (e.g., in front of, in back of, near, beside).
- Ask students to name a vehicle in the picture and tell about a time they traveled in that vehicle.
- Name a place (e.g., China) and ask the following question: **How will you get there?** The student who responds (e.g., I will take a plane) then names another place and asks the question. Continue until all students have participated.
- Ask students to create categories of vehicles (e.g., vehicles that travel in the air; vehicles used in an emergency; vehicles students take to school, etc.), and then classify the vehicles in the theme picture according to the categories.
- Ask students questions about the theme picture that require prediction: **Where do you think the fire engine is going? How do you think the bicycle rider will feel after a long ride?**

Reading and Writing

- Have students write sentences comparing/contrasting vehicles in the theme picture. Example: *The bus is bigger than the mail truck. The airplane travels faster than the car. The police car and ambulance have sirens.*
- Draw a simple compass on the board. Point to a vehicle in the picture and a direction on the compass. Ask students to write a sentence using the vehicle and the direction. Model this for students: *The mail carrier drives the mail truck west. The firefighter travels east on the fire engine.*

- Write the following question on the board: *How will you get there?* Students should write an answer to the question and then point out the vehicle in the picture. Encourage students to use vocabulary words they already know. Model this for students: *I will sail on a sailboat. I will travel on an airplane. I will ride on the yellow school bus.*

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES FOR OTHER LEVELS

Beginning: Students are able to listen and respond nonverbally and/or speak in one- or two-word responses. Give directions and ask questions such as: **Point to the bicycle. Is this the sailboat? Is this the fire engine or the train? Is the school bus yellow or blue?** Continue with other yes/no and either/or questions.

Early Intermediate: Focus on students' ability to speak in short, simple sentences. Have them describe the picture. Ask questions: **What is happening in this picture? Who is on the bicycle? What is the woman inside doing?** Have students write a sentence explaining something that is happening in this picture; then ask students to read their sentences to a partner.

Early Advanced: Students are speaking in complex and compound sentences, and should be able to analyze and debate a position. Ask questions such as: **What do you think would happen if the fire engine stopped working? What would happen if the mail truck broke down? What would happen if the travel agent did not have a computer?** Have students write a paragraph responding to one of these questions and then read their paragraphs to a partner.

Advanced: Students are able to listen, speak, read, and write proficiently in English. Focus on their ability to predict, persuade, and debate. Ask questions such as: **What are the things you can see and do in a helicopter? Where can you go on a train? What are the advantages of air travel? What are the advantages of other kinds of transportation?** Have students pretend they spent a day traveling in one of the vehicles in the picture. They should write a journal entry describing the places they visited and the things they saw, and explain why they chose to travel in the vehicle they selected.