

California dreaming

Language level:	Intermediate (B1)
Learner type:	Young learners; Teens; Adults
Time:	40 minutes
Activity:	Drawing
Topic:	Love
Language:	Second conditional
Materials:	Song



Preparation, materials and equipment

1. For this activity you will need the song **California Dreaming** by the Mamas and the Papas.

Use any of the following sites or applications to find the song:

- YouTube (<http://youtu.be/4Rk9PHEUuWY>)
 - The iTunes store (via iTunes media player)
 - Groove Shark (<http://tinysong.com/kjc8>)
 - Spotify (<http://www.spotify.com/>)
2. Decide how you are going to play the song in class (computer or mobile phone and loudspeakers, for example)

Lesson plan

1. Tell students that you want them to draw two sketches. Ask them to listen to your complete instructions before they start. Give the following instructions:

I want you to draw a scene from a winter's day: the trees are bare; the leaves on the ground are brown; the sky is grey. There is a man going for a walk. There is a thought bubble coming from his head. I also want you to draw a second picture. In this one the man is in a church. He is down on his knees and he is praying. The preacher is beside him. There is another thought bubble coming from the man's head.

Note that to ensure students' comprehension of the instructions you can:

- Use gesture and body position: get down on your knees and put your hands together to communicate the second scene.
- Demonstrate what a thought bubble is by using your finger to draw an imaginary one in the air coming from your own head.
- Speak clearly and write any new language on the board.
- Repeat the instructions 2 or 3 times.

2. Ask students to repeat the instructions back to you before drawing. If possible, give access to colour pencils. Ask students not to write anything in the thought bubbles at this stage.
3. Let students compare their work with each other.
4. Ask students to consider what their man might be thinking about. Elicit as many possible thoughts as you can and write the best ideas on the board. For example:
 - *"I wish it was warmer"*
 - *"I should get a dog"*
 - *"I hate winter"*

Note that you could restrict the task: ask students to think of second conditional sentences that could go in the man's thought bubbles.

5. Explain to students that the man would love to be somewhere else but that he can't leave. Ask them to guess why (the answer is that he is involved with a woman that he can't leave).
6. Write the following second conditionals on the board and ask students to copy them in or beside the man's thought bubbles:

- Thought bubble one: *I'd be safe and warm if I was in L.A.*
- Thought bubble two: *If I didn't tell her I could leave today.*

7. Teach students the full song lyrics to California Dreaming. The song lends itself perfectly to a drill-type chant because of its call and response format. Ask students to repeat after you.

1.	2.	3.
All the leaves are brown And the sky is grey I've been for a walk On a winter's day I'd be safe and warm If I was in LA California dreaming On such a winter's day	I stopped into a church I passed along the way Well, I got down on my knees And I pretend to pray You know the preacher likes the cold He knows I'm going to stay California dreaming On such a winter's day	All the leaves are brown And the sky is grey I've been for a walk On a winter's day If I didn't tell her I could leave today California dreaming On such a winter's day

Note that you don't have to tell students that they are dealing with a song. Let them work it out for themselves.

8. Let students hear the song.

Variation

After eliciting possible thoughts (see step 4) ask students to write a short story about the man in the scene.

Follow up

Scan your students' drawings and use video-editing software (Windows Movie Maker, iMovie, etc) to create a collage to accompany the song.