

# Photo warmers – a few examples of photos and questions or tasks



In this part I would like to show you four examples of how you can create such a warm-up task with photos taken from Creative Commons and Openverse.

## Example 1



**Figure 2:** Photo of a boy watching an event

Available from <https://openverse.org/image/355e7b49-67d1-4b1a-9e95-efc9fa607994?q=animals> and <https://www.flickr.com/photos/28650594@N03/5856893090> (Last accessed 8 August 2024).

Possible questions / tasks that could go with the picture:

- Describe in detail what you can see in the picture (in the foreground, background, the person, colours).
- Where in the world do you think this picture was taken and why? How old could the boy be?
- Speculate about the living situation of the boy and why he is wearing a football on his head.

I found a bit of additional information on the picture which can always be used at the end of the discussion if your students are curious, but strictly speaking this is not the main focus of the task. It may, however, also be useful from a language point of view to read the extra information. Here is what I found:

CJTF-HOA veterinary experts' team with Uganda to treat 30,000 animals

A young Ugandan village boy watches a specialist veterinary team and local community animal health workers during a veterinary civic action project where more than 30,000 animals were treated.

DVIDSHUB (2024). *DVIDSHUB Flickr* (2024). Available from

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/28650594@N03/5856893090> (Last accessed 8 August 2024).

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## Example 2



**Figure 1:** Photo of Colombian animal heroes

Policía Nacional de los colombianos. (2024). 'Homenaje a los animales héroes de Colombia'. Openverse. Available from <https://openverse.org/image/3e505a82-d9dd-44f8-807c-677f5d639f41?q=animals> (Last accessed 8 August 2024) and <https://www.flickr.com/photos/policiacolombia/5748377718/in/photostream/>

Possible questions or tasks:

- Describe the picture in as much detail as possible (the people, animal, what is going on, what everyone is wearing).
- Where in the world do you think the picture was taken?
- What might the dog have done to earn an award ribbon and why is it being dressed up in that manner?

Unfortunately I did not find much information to go with the picture, only: '*Policía Nacional de los colombianos. Homenaje a los animales héroes de Colombia*'. So we know at least that the picture shows the police force of Colombia and that the event seems to be in honour of animal heroes in Colombia. Why the dog is being dressed up remains a mystery.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/policiacolombia/5748379924/in/photostream/>

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## Example 3



**Figure 3:** Photo of 27 folks on bikes

Reid, C (2012). #bikeboom Available from: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/80494743@N00/8008925880> (Last accessed 8 August 2024). and <https://openverse.org/image/ef3ded91-5fda-40a8-838d-5a7bcdddecac?q=people>

Possible questions or tasks:

- Describe what you can see in the picture in as much detail as possible (people, things, what people are wearing, colours).
- Where in the world do you think this picture was taken? Which clues could help you?
- What could have been a reason why the photographer took the photo? What may they be trying to show?

The information shared on Flickr under the photo can be used in order to resolve some questions:

#bikeboom pic negates almost every wonky stereotype about people who ride bikes in London

27 folks on bikes: some in helmets, most not; some in hi-vis, most not; some on fixies, most not. None on the pavement, none going through the red light. Two 'cycle chic' women; otherwise mostly men, but not one in Lycra. A pair of sandals but not worn by the only hippie. Perhaps oddly there's not one folding bike to be seen, and no Boris bikes either. (And why is cycling so white?)

Most of these folks are probably going to and from work so it's safe to assume they're taxpayers and rate payers. That means they pay for roads just the same as motorists pay for roads because all roads are paid for by taxpayers and rate payers.

Check out the Advanced Stop Line box: in that space you could fit two cars. Look at how many bikes fit in the same space! Planners and politicians need to look at this pic and work out just what kind of transport infrastructure is going to be needed in the next 50 years.

Shot taken at 6pm, leaning out of a pub window on Theobalds Rd, London, by TOBY JACOBS.

– Reid, C (2012). *Flickr* (2024). Available from <https://www.flickr.com/photos/80494743@N00/8008925880> (Last accessed 8 August 2024)

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## Example 4



**Figure 4:** Photo of a disaster

HeyPaul. Flickr (2024). Available from <https://openverse.org/image/b4f3bcd1-75ca-4564-b126-a8d64eebb3ab?q=earthquakes> and <https://www.flickr.com/photos/10775233@N00/1428681>

Possible questions or tasks:

- Which disaster do you think caused this situation?
- Where in the world was the photo taken and when?
- Say what happened to the houses, the cars, the streets, and possibly people living in that area.

Or: If you think question three might be useful for creating passive sentences but your students will not quite get it and find a way around using passive constructions, you could become more specific here and write:

Try to create passive sentences saying what happened to someone or something in connection with the photo (useful words: *destroy*, *damage*, *take to a hospital*, *injure*, *to make homeless*).

Here is what I found about the photo – it is not much but at least you know the basics and can answer the most pressing questions of where and when:

*Hey Paul. Flickr. (2024). 'Paso Robles Earthquake'. Pan Jewelers days after the Dec '03 San Simeon earthquake'. Available from <https://www.flickr.com/photos/10775233@N00/1428681> (Last accessed 8 August 2024).*