



Activity: Noun Recall



Materials needed: Numerous household, personal, and classroom items, some one of a kind, others in pairs and larger quantities, and a table cloth. (It's fun to throw in a couple of unusual and unexpected items. For example, you could add a group of postcards from Africa, a Halloween mask, and a set of plastic chattering teeth to a rather banal group of kitchen and personal items.)

Description:

Before the students enter the room, spread all the items on a table, grouping like items together. Make sure there are enough items and enough variety so students can't quickly and easily recall everything. Cover the items with a lightweight table cloth or sheet.

On the board, list quantity words, expressions, and articles that the students are likely to need when they write about the objects on the table.

Uncover the items on the table. Ask the students to approach the table, circle around it slowly but without dallying, and return to their seats. Cover the table again.

In pairs, students now write as much detail about the items on the table as they can recall. One student in each pair can act as the scribe while both come up with complete sentences like "There are two pairs of scissors on the table. Both pairs have purple handles. In the middle, there's a dictionary. The dictionary has a red cover. There are a few forks next to the dictionary. There are a lot of toothpicks. Most of the toothpicks are broken. There is a photograph of a house. The house is by the beach." When the students have finished writing, pairs of students can compare sentences. Then uncover the table again. Students have a lot of fun at this point as they compare what they wrote to the reality. (That's why it's important to make it a challenge. Sometimes they've added things that aren't even on the table!)