A Thousand Words

Language level: Intermediate (B1) - Advanced (C1)
Learner type: All ages
Time: 90 minutes
Activity: Watching short film clip, speaking and writing
Topic: Images
Language: Idiomatic expressions and going to + infinitive
Materials: Short film, video and PowerPoint
Overview

This lesson is designed around a short film called *A Thousand Words*. Students practise speaking, writing and idiomatic expressions.

Step 1

Write up the expression *a picture paints a thousand words*

Ask students if they know what the expression means. When they understand the meaning, ask them to discuss it and see if they agree.

Step 2

Show the students the first slide of the PowerPoint presentation which illustrates the expression *a picture paints a thousand words*.

Tell students go are going to show a series of pictures which illustrate idiomatic expression in English, and that they have to guess the meaning. As the expressions are quite difficult I've added a Wordle with the words of the expression jumbled up. If the students can't guess the meaning from the picture show them the wordle to help them.

After looking at all the pictures, students should try to remember the expressions and test each other.
Step 3

Remind students that the last expression was like a *fish in water*. Ask them to look at this picture of a goldfish and a cat. Tell them the picture is part of a story, they have to imagine what the story is.

Step 4

Show the students the video and stop at 25 seconds. Ask the students what they think is going to happen. They'll probably say that the cat is going to eat the goldfish.

Link: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h42Vsea1rmU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h42Vsea1rmU)

Show the rest of the film.
Step 5

Tell the students they are going to watch a film called A Thousand Words. Ask these questions:

- What's the film going to be about?
- Who's going to be in the film?
- What type of film is it going to be?
- What part do pictures play in the film?

Link: [https://vimeo.com/2884813](https://vimeo.com/2884813)

Play the film until 0.57. Check their predictions and ask them what they think is going to happen next:

- Is the man going to look at the photos?
- Is he going to try to return the camera?
- How's he going to return the camera?

Play the film until 1.46. Ask them what they think the man is going to do now. If they think he's going to try and contact the woman, ask them how he's going to do it.

Play the film until 3.14. Ask them what they think the man is going to do now.

Play the rest of the film. Ask the students the questions:

- Will the woman receive the camera?
- What will she do if she sees the picture of the man and his mobile number?
- Will they ever meet?

Homework

For homework ask students to the story of the film and to finish the story after the film ends.