



Activity: Blind Copying

Materials needed: Create pairs of bags each containing 6-9 common objects. Each pair of bags must contain the same items although variations in details are OK. Some ideas for objects that are easy to find multiples of are cups, saucers, forks, spoons, napkins, match boxes, fruit, canned or dried food, desk items like rolls of tape, erasers, paper clips, pencils, rulers, calculators, staplers, other common items like paperback books, wood or plastic blocks, toy cars, Lego pieces, play money, other small plastic toys, personal items like band-aids, nail clippers, toothpaste, combs, bottles of vitamins or aspirin, etc.



Description: In this pair activity, students sit back to back with a desk surface in front of each of them. Each student in the pair has a matched bag of items. The first student empties his items on the desk. Instruct the first student to quickly arrange the items in a creative and complicated manner. Some objects might be stacked, balanced, placed in a circle, crossed, stood upside down, placed one inside the other, etc.

Now, the first student instructs the second student to arrange his or her items so that the two arrangements will look identical.

Example:

Student 1: Put the book in the middle of the desk. Put the cup on the book. Put the pencil on the right side of the book.

Student 2: Up and down the book? Or pointing out?

Student 1: The pencil is in a line with the book. Now, put the rubber band on the left side of the book and open it like a circle. Put the penny in the circle. In the cup, put the scissors.

Student 2: Do the scissors point up or down?

When the second student believes the second arrangement is complete, the student can describe back to the first student what the copied arrangement looks like to confirm they are the same. Finally, the students should turn around and see what they have accomplished together.

Note: Penny Ur has a similar activity in her book *Grammar Practice Activities* (Cambridge University Press) in which Lego blocks or Cuisenaire Rods are used.