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Zu unserer Folienbeilage

Friederike Klippel

What will happen next?

Although the six scenes of the transparency show different people and situations they have a common feature. They all depict a moment when something is going to happen. We are led to think about the consequences each person in the pictures may have to face. We can speculate about the possible outcomes of each scene and we might even construct connections between the people in the pictures.

In all cases we are trying to guess the near future, the next five minutes following the scenes shown in the transparency. To do this in English we need to use one of the future tenses. For pupils in the lower ability groups at a *Hauptschule* that means either the will-future or the going-to-future.

But before the pupils may start to make suggestions how these situations could develop, it is necessary to make sure that everybody interprets the drawings in the same way. So they have to be described, which provides a natural context for the use of the present continuous tense. In that way the transparency provides revision exercises for these grammatical structures. It also helps to practise communicative language use. When talking about the pictures the learners have to make suggestions, give reasons for their opinion and state possibilities.

Teaching hints

1. What will happen next?

The transparency is shown to the class and the pupils are asked to make one suggestion as to what could happen in the next five minutes in each picture. The pictures that create the most lively response are talked about further. Instead of only thinking of the next few minutes the pupils could also speculate about the consequences within the next hours or days. The more the speculation moves away from the situation shown in the picture the more unlikely and even unrealistic it will become. Thus, wondering what might happen to the poor man who misses his bus could lead to amazing ideas: He'll be late for work. Because he's late his boss will ask his partner to make the trip to London. The young man will be happy about that, because he doesn't like London and he can go fishing instead. He'll catch a big fish and win a prize in an angling competition.

2. Stories

The pupils fit all the scenes on the transparency into a story or a newspaper report. They use their imagination to construct relationships and connections between the different people and bring the episodes into sequence. Paper copies of the transparency could be cut up, maybe even altered by the pupils, and become illustrations of their stories and reports.

What will happen next?

