A Picture-based Activity for Practicing Speaking and Listening

This picture-based speaking activity is called "Don't Mention It!" It involves an information gap. Students must speak clearly and listen carefully to complete the task successfully. Here are the steps:

- 1. Find a paper calendar that has pictures of very similar objects or places (e.g., a dozen different pictures of seashells, a dozen images of animals, etc.).
- 2. Mount the large-format photos and save the small versions of those images from the back of the calendar.
- 3. Cut the small images and mount them on index cards.
- 4. Distribute the large photos around the room (e.g., in the chalk tray or on bulletin boards) and pass out the small pictures to the students (either to individuals or to pairs). Tell the students not to show the little photos to other students.
- 5. Each student (or pair of students) describes the little photo but <u>WITHOUT</u> mentioning certain characteristics (e.g., the color or number of the shells in the photo, the name of the animal).
- 6. The class members try to guess which image is being described, based on what was said by the student(s) holding the small images.