

# How to use posters and visual aids in your classroom

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Posters and visual aids make teaching and learning exciting. On the face of it, posters and pictures are colourful, interesting and engaging. But they can offer much more if you choose them carefully and with a specific purpose in mind.

**You can use posters in a number of ways. Use them to:**

- Introduce a topic, idea or concept.
- Reinforce a topic a concept.
- Stimulate discussion.
- Settle learners and gain their attention.
- Work on observational skills (visual discrimination, figure-ground, differences and likenesses).
- Encourage learners to share their own experiences.
- Extend learners' experience.
- Teach visual literacy (how to 'read' a picture).
- Create stories around the picture.

## CHOOSING A POSTER

You need to choose posters and pictures with a purpose. Ask yourself what it is you need to convey to the learners or what it is you want your learners to get out of it. For instance, if you are trying to teach the concept of opposites, you might use a poster that shows day and night. You could also make your own poster by cutting out pictures and making a collage.

Learn to see the potential in pictures.  
This means knowing how to 'read' a poster  
or picture and identify the learning  
opportunities in them.

Let's look at poster six in this kit. See how  
many learning opportunities this poster offers.

