Quick Start for Tutors

New to using the Oxford Picture Dictionary (OPD)? Start here! The OPD is a flexible resource that helps learners build vocabulary and conversation skills through real-life pictures and topics.Most libraries have this book available. If you would like a copy of the OPD please contact lhoffman@literacydupage.org.

Step 1: Learn the Basics of the OPD

Watch these short training videos to become familiar with the resource and how tutors use it during lessons.

- OPD Part 1-https://drive.google.com/file/d/17tYj2mMJNqcRF4BVhWL8wxOSfhNJRwJ1/view?usp=drive_link
- OPD Part 2-https://drive.google.com/file/d/1O8oYrCPGJ_OHEf1dcr8Nb_Q1ow8cgRsq/view?usp=drive_link
- Orientation to the OPD Teacher Resource Center-https://youtu.be/DfniLYFhTw4?si=2KFcTUBafBKpn2er
- Free OPD YouTube -https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DfniLYFhTw4Channel-https://www.youtube.com/c/Oxfordpicturedictionary

Step 2: Access the Teacher Resource Center

Literacy DuPage provides tutors with access to the OPD Online Teacher Resource Center for lesson ideas, printable activities, audio, and videos. This resource is passcode protected.

Login Information Complete **this form** to request access to the subscription.

Step 3: Choose One Topic

Select a topic that is relevant to your learner's daily life or goals.

Good Topics for Beginners

- Family
- Food
- Clothing
- Health
- Transportation
- Community Places

Good Topics for Intermediate Learners

- Jobs
- Housing
- Technology
- Banking
- Citizenship
- Workplace Communication

Step 4: Use a Simple Lesson Routine

1. Introduce Vocabulary

Point to pictures and say the words aloud.

2. Practice Speaking

Ask simple questions:

- "What is this?"
- "What do you see?"
- "Where is the woman going?"

3. Practice Reading or Writing

- Label pictures
- Match words to images
- Write short sentences

4. Review and Repeat

Recycle vocabulary often using games, flashcards, or conversation.

Step 5: Adapt Activities to the Learner's Level

Beginning Learners

Focus on:

- Naming objects
- Basic verbs
- Yes/No questions

Intermediate Learners

Focus on:

- Describing pictures
- Storytelling
- Verb tenses
- Opinions and discussion

Helpful Resources

- Example OPD Lesson Plan
- Additional OPD Learner Activity Suggestions

Tutor Tip

You do not need to complete every activity on a page. Choose a few vocabulary words or pictures and use them to build conversation, listening, reading, and writing practice based on your learner's goals and comfort level.

Additional Teaching Strategies:

<u>Using Pictures to Develop Vocabulary by Level</u>

<u>Beginning Literacy / Low Beginning Level</u>
Goals: Build foundational vocabulary with concrete nouns, basic actions, and everyday concepts.
Picture-Based Vocabulary Activities:

- Labeling objects in a picture (e.g., items in a kitchen or bathroom).
- Matching words to images (e.g., food, clothing, parts of the body).
- Picture dictionaries: Student-made or printed.
- Picture Bingo or Flashcards to reinforce word recognition.
- Yes/No or This/That questions using images ("Is this a banana?" "This is a bus.")

Vocabulary Focus:

- Everyday nouns (food, clothes, rooms, furniture)
- Basic verbs (eat, sit, walk, sleep)
- Colors, numbers, days of the week
- Family and common people (mother, teacher, doctor)

<u>High Beginning / Low Intermediate Level</u>
Goals: Expand vocabulary to include more actions, places, and basic descriptive words.
Picture-Based Vocabulary Activities:

- Describe a picture using short sentences ("The boy is running.")
- Sort images into categories (e.g., fruits vs. vegetables, indoor vs. outdoor activities)
- Sequencing picture stories to describe routines or events.
- Find the difference between two images using descriptive vocabulary.
- Picture-based sentence building ("The woman is wearing a red dress.")

Vocabulary Focus:

- Everyday verbs in present tense
- Simple adjectives (big/small, happy/sad, colors, weather)
- Community places (bank, post office, park)
- Daily routines (wake up, go to work, cook)

<u>Intermediate Level</u>
Goals: Develop ability to describe, compare, and narrate using visuals.
Picture-Based Vocabulary Activities:

- Describe and compare two scenes ("This city is crowded. That one is quiet.")
- Use picture prompts for short paragraphs or oral stories.
- “What’s happening?” photos to practice present continuous and past tense.

- Picture storytelling: Students write or say what happened before and after the picture.
- Vocabulary webs based on an image (e.g., picture of a grocery store → foods, jobs, money)

Vocabulary Focus:

- Verbs in multiple tenses
- Descriptive and comparative adjectives
- Expanded topic-based vocabulary (jobs, transportation, health, school)
- Prepositions of place and time

High Intermediate / Advanced Level

Goals: Develop abstract vocabulary, infer meaning, and use pictures for discussion and analysis.

Picture-Based Vocabulary Activities:

- Photo prompts for opinion or debate (e.g., image of pollution → "What should we do?")
- Infer meaning from subtle visual clues (emotion, setting, culture).
- Use editorial cartoons or infographics to learn topic-specific vocabulary.
- Image-based presentations: Students select an image and give a short talk or story.
- Image analysis: Students interpret themes, emotions, or messages.

Vocabulary Focus:

- Abstract nouns and concepts (freedom, responsibility, diversity)
- Figurative language and idioms from visual context
- Academic or workplace-related terms
- Vocabulary for discussion and expressing opinion

Magazines and Newspapers

These provide a constant supply of topical pictures in a wide range of styles, color, black and white, photographs, and stylized images. If using ready-made picture stories in the form of cartoon strips and comics, delete any text that appears.