Consolidating Vocabulary with Picture Dictations

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What is a grammar dictation?

• Choose or write a short text that focuses on “grammar” or “function” words

Example: This weekend, my friends are coming for dinner. I’m going to cook hamburgers and make potato salad. If Jenny comes, she’ll bring a cake.
• Read the dictation once, at normal speed. Students listen.
• Read the dictation again, at normal speed, with pauses between the sentences.
• Students take notes, and write down important nouns, adjectives and verbs.
• Students reconstruct the text in groups at the board, and a scribe writes the group’s final version.
A picture dictation is a variation of the grammar dictation

• The text to be dictated should describe an image that draws from vocabulary you want to consolidate.
• The process of dictation is the same.
• At the board, students reconstruct the image, while an “artist” draws what the group agrees on.
An example from Italian 2:

La povera principessa è un po’ brutta. È bassa e magrissima, ma ha la pancia. I suoi capelli sono lunghi ma sempre spettinati, e sopra porta la corona un po’ storta che comunque brilla al sole. Ha il naso lungo lungo, le labbra gigantesche e le sopracciglia cespugliose. Si mette sempre un vestito da ballo troppo grande, da dove esce un solo piede. L’altra gamba non ce l’ha.
10 Sono brutta
3 piedi (1 metro)
GRAZIE!