
Overhead Transparency Slides Ahead

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slides. Inserted in slide frames which cost only a few cents each, the finished slides are quite inexpensive. Paper copies of the "master" sheet prove useful for teacher preparation, for homework assignments, and for absent students.

Nonphotographic slides offer language teachers working with minimal or no equipment a unique way to enhance their teaching and student learning. This article describes ways to produce these slides as well as ways to use them for teaching reading and writing skills, grammatical concepts, lexical items, and dialogues as well as in language games.

Simple and Inexpensive Production Techniques

Slide Sizes

Slides come in two sizes—35mm or the larger "superslide" mount. Contrasted with

a rectangular 35mm slide, the superslide's square image will project about a third more material. The square "superslide" image also projects artwork (like the round, Aztec Calendar) which does not fit the rectangular format of conventional 35mm film.

The Master Sheet

The 8 1/2" x 11" master has thirty squares marked out in which small pictures can be glued or taped in place. The "superslide" mount accepts a transparency about 1 5/8" square. Thirty of these squares fit on one page. This sheet with thirty small pictures is then photocopied onto transparency film. Each square picture is then cut out and mounted either in a 35mm rectangular slide or square "superslide" mount.

Sources of Small Pictures

The yellow pages of the telephone book provide thousands of action pictures. Newspapers, magazines, comic books and advertisements also provide artwork of the correct size. Magazines provide miniature color pictures of people and food, a good source for color lift slides described later.

There are many other, sometimes unlikely sources for pictures. A cereal box may include a toy in a printed plastic bag which can be cut out and mounted in a slide frame to project unusual reading material. The writer has made slides in Spanish and Japanese from plastic sugar packets. Mimeograph stencils can be typed on (without the ribbon) to produce title slides for either 35mm color slides or nonphotographic slides. Photographic film (developed or undeveloped) can be scratched with a needle for stick figures or

scenes. One teacher inscribed the word "Peace" on a color slide of a church to create a beautiful title slide.

Adding Color to Slides

Most nonphotographic slides are black and white or, if color transparency material is used, a single color. Add color to these slides by drawing on them with marking pens. To add a single color to an entire slide, sandwich a piece of cellophane or colored page protector with the clear transparency. Transparencies for use in copy machines are available in a rainbow of colors, and provide a black image on a colored background. Some thermal transparencies also produce a negative image with colored lines against a black background—an interesting change of pace.

Color Lift Slides

Pictures printed on "clay coated" paper can be used to make lovely color transparencies. Color lift slides can be made using a square of two-inch wide, clear tape (e.g. 3M #3750). Place the tape on the small magazine picture, rub it down thoroughly, trim, soak in water, and then pull away the paper. Then wash the plastic tape (with the picture) on the back gently to remove the clay. When it is clear, stick this tape to a 2" square piece of rigid, clear plastic. Alternatively, the back of the tape can be sprayed with hair spray (to eliminate the stickiness) and mounted in cardboard or plastic slide mounts.

Color Photocopy Slides

The new color photocopiers can produce transparencies of superb quality to make color slides whose projected image rivals that of 35mm photographic slides.

Because these copiers typically offer size-reduction capabilities, an enlarged "master" sheet can accommodate a much greater range of colored pictures. (The square of this 11" x 17" master sheet are 2 1/2" rather than 1 5/8".) The master sheet is color copied at 65% to produce a sheet of color transparencies, each exactly the size to fit a "superslide" mount.

Slide Mounts

Several companies produce the 2" x 2" inch "superslide" mounts recommended. Both cardboard mounts (heat sealed with an iron) or snap-together plastic mounts are available. One company makes sealed plastic slide mounts, ready for one-side chip insertion. Old 35mm plastic slide mounts can be enlarged with knife or scissors, then resealed using finger nail polish remover or plastic model cement.

Many Uses

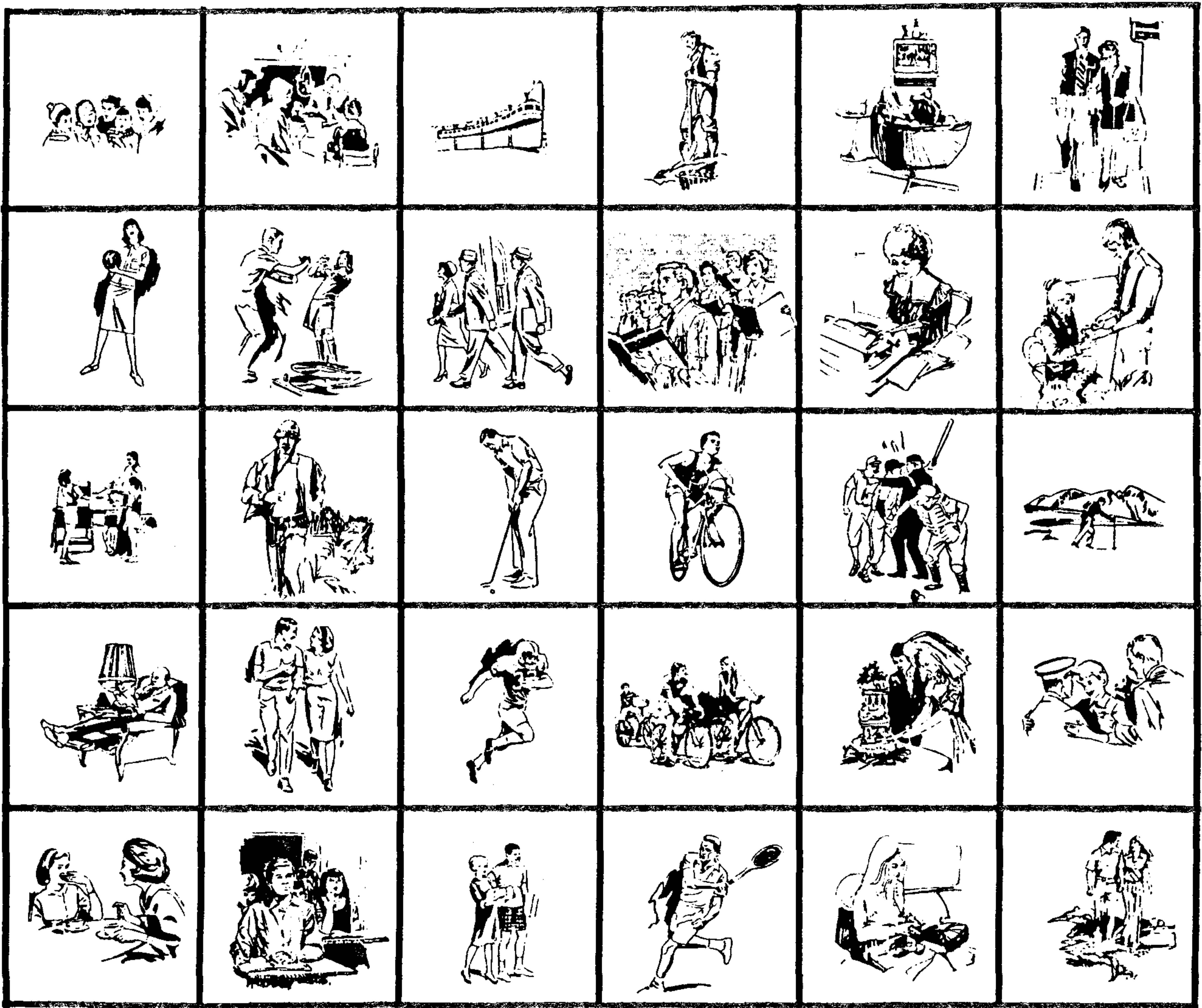
Once prepared, these slides will serve for years to come and can be used to support classroom activities which today's visually oriented students find stimulating. Many slides will prove useful for different classes. Pictures of objects can be used for presenting or practicing lexical items (a popular use for these slides) in any class. Examples are articles of clothing, food, and parts of the body as well as people doing things or expressing emotions.

With the slide projector set up and ready for use, nonphotographic slide activities can be used in short five or ten minute blocks of time. For example, with a few minutes left, project a series of slides with clocks showing different times. Concepts such as verb tenses or comparatives can be practiced with slides. A person running

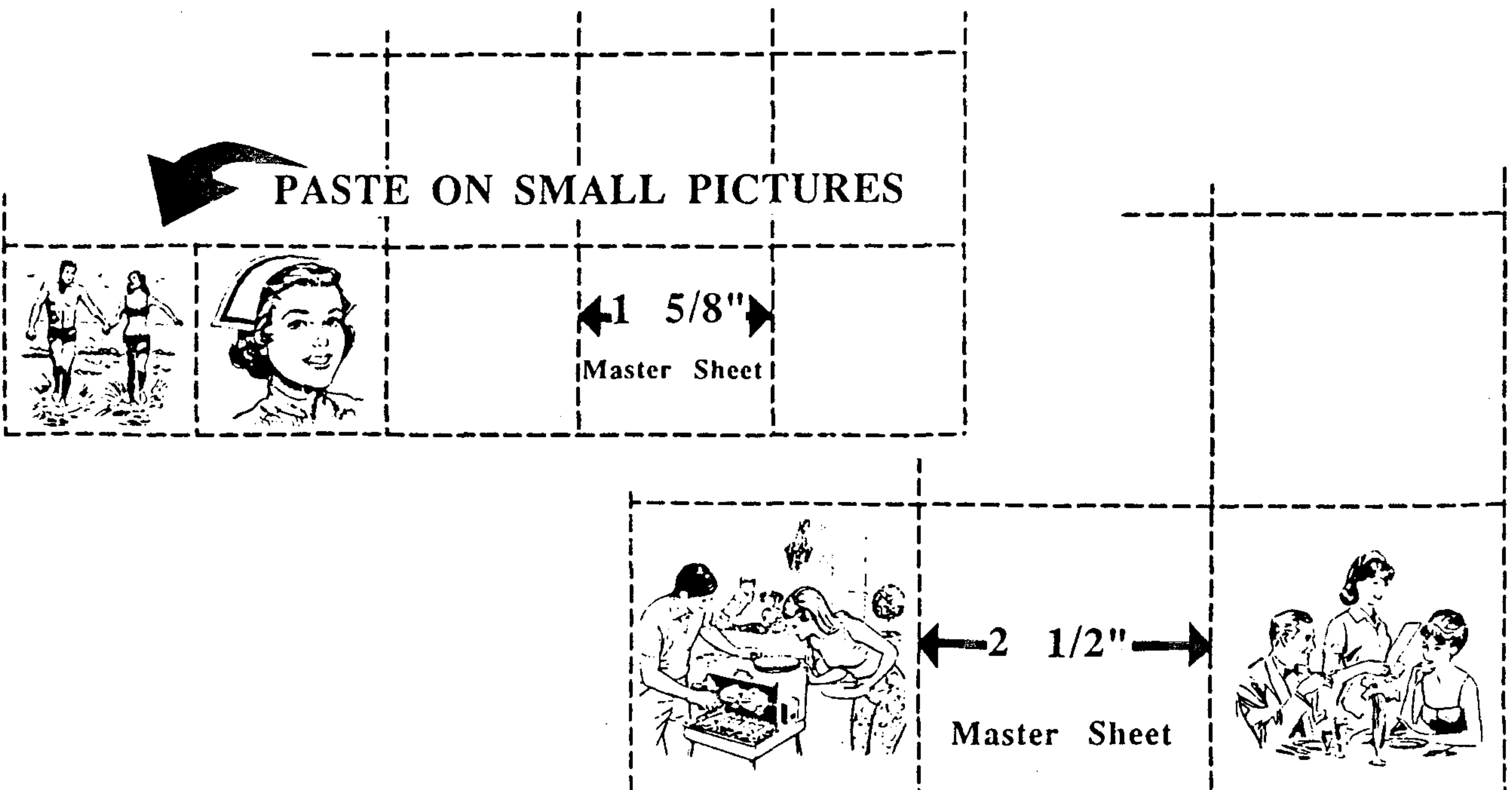
can illustrate the progressive tense vividly. Show pictures of two people, one "taller," one "thinner," then a slide of three different sized people. Color key difficult concepts like the subjunctive or irregular plurals. Illustrate sentences which are visually but not aurally distinct. *Se despertó. vs. lo despertó. (He woke up. vs. He woke him up.)* Slides can also illustrate minimal pairs, like *bite vs. bike*. Project words frequently misspelled using color to highlight those letters prone to error. Vivid color helps students recall difficult words, like *popular* in Spanish. You may also want to color code different uses which prove troublesome to students like the verbs *ser* and *estar*. Some of the best language teachers keep students motivated with occasional language games. "What is missing in this picture?" gets student attention.

Copy machines with reduction and enlargement capabilities can be used to produce nonphotographic slides of current, high interest reading material for your classroom. Motivate students by bringing in slides with reading material they find interesting. Better yet, ask them to bring articles from newspapers or magazines. The square, "superslide" format will project several paragraphs of content. Pictures also can provide cognitive support for stories being heard in the classroom or lab. Even if used only once or twice with the introduction of new material, students tend to recall the images when subsequently hearing the audio only.

Nonphotographic slides are easy to make, inexpensive, and offer language teachers a remarkably simple yet versatile method to illustrate linguistic concepts or create classroom activities which are enjoyed by both teachers and students.



Master Sheet



Overhead Transparency Slides Ahead

Mark W. Seng, The University of Texas at Austin

Language teachers like the overhead projector for many reasons. It is easy to use and reliable. They can teach facing their students in a lighted classroom. Plain paper copiers make professional-looking transparencies at the push of a button. But overhead transparencies can be used in a different way—to make slides which require no photographic skill, camera, film, or processing.

For example, place a page of classified ads from a target-language newspaper on a photocopy machine loaded, not with paper, but a transparency. (Note: Be sure to use transparency film made for your machine.) The emerging transparency shows dozens of ads in tiny print, too small for the overhead. But, cut out one ad (perhaps for an apartment), then insert this small transparency into an ordinary

35mm slide mount. Projected in a slide projector, the image fills the screen. The remaining dozens of want ads can be used to make additional slides.

Without using photographic techniques and in minutes, teachers can create slides like these by copying either the original material or a "slide master" (which consists of miniature pictures pasted to one sheet of paper) for projection in a lighted classroom. Using a remote control or a "short" slide projector lens, the teacher can remain in the front of the classroom, as with the overhead. Slides offer other benefits as well. Sequenced in slide trays, they can be projected with rapidity to ensure fast paced, lively classes that keep students attentive. That single, twenty-five cent overhead transparency of want ads, when cut, yields film for thirty

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