FIGURES IN LANGUAGE
DESCRIBE AND DRAW

A WORKBOOK OF COMMUNICATIVE ACTIVITIES

R. R. JORDAN

Collins ELT
Contents

Introduction: Aim of The Book and How To Use the Book .......... 5

Part 1 (A) Aids to Description: Reference
1 Letters and Abbreviations ........................................ 9
2 Numbers, Dates and Times ....................................... 10
3 Measurement, Direction and Location .......................... 12
4 Shapes, Lines, Dimensions and Angles ......................... 16
5 Precision, Approximation, and Qualification of Comparison .... 18
6 Asking Questions for Information ................................. 19

Part 1 (B) Aids to Description: Practice .......................... 20

Part 2 Figures for Description (and Tapescripts)

1 Shapes
1 Different Shapes .................................................. 23
2 A Large Square Containing Four Shapes ......................... 25
3 A Two-dimensional Figure ....................................... 27
4 A Three-dimensional Figure ................................... 29
5 An Abstract Design .............................................. 31
6 A Geometric Figure .............................................. 33

2 Data
1 Some Numbers .................................................... 35
2 Two Families ..................................................... 37
3 U.K.: Some Statistics .......................................... 39
4 United Kingdom: Population ................................... 41
5 G.B. Road Accidents: Number Killed ......................... 43
6 The Trend to Monopoly in British Manufacturing ............ 45
7 United Kingdom Energy Consumption ......................... 47
8 A Simple Machine A Pulley ................................... 49
9 A Simple Machine A Lever .................................... 51
10 Factors Affecting Health in a Developing Country ........... 53
11 A Timetable ..................................................... 55
12 A Page from a Diary ............................................ 57

3 Maps and Plans
1 An Island ......................................................... 59
2 Country X: Railway Network ................................... 61
3 Front View (cross-section) of a House ......................... 63
4 Ground Plan of a House ....................................... 65
5 A Town Centre: Sketch Map .................................. 67
6 A University: Part of the Campus ............................. 69

Answers to Part 1 (B) Practice .................................... 70
Different Shapes
Part 2  Figures for Description

1  Shapes

Different Shapes

Introduction.  The diagram consists of four shapes which are joined together. The size of the shapes does not matter.

Description.  First, near the bottom of the page, and in the centre, draw a rectangle that is lying horizontally, measuring about eight centimetres by five. Draw a vertical line down the centre of the rectangle so that it is divided into two halves. You now have two smaller rectangles. Directly on top of the left-hand rectangle draw a square whose sides are the same length as the top of the left-hand rectangle. When you have finished that, write the number one in the centre of the square. Then write number two in the centre of the rectangle immediately below the square. In the rectangle to the right of that, put number three, also in the centre.

The final part to draw is on top of box number three. Listen carefully to the following description before drawing it. Draw a triangle so that it stands on top of the right-hand rectangle. The length of the base is the same as the side of the rectangle. Draw the right-hand side of the triangle as a continuation of the right-hand side of the rectangle. Draw it vertically in a straight line so that it goes about a centimetre higher than the square. Now join the top of that line to the top left-hand corner of box three.

When you have finished that, write capital letters inside the corners of the triangle: put A in the top corner, B in the bottom left corner, and C in the bottom right corner.
A Large Square Containing Four Shapes

- Square: 3 cm.
- Triangle: 3 cm.
- Circle: 3 cm.
- Rectangle: 2 cm.

10 cm.
A Large Square Containing Four Shapes

Introduction. This is a drawing of a large square containing four smaller squares. Inside each of the four squares there is a different shape.

Description. In the middle of your paper draw a large square, measuring about ten centimetres. Write, in figures, 'ten cm.' under the baseline of the square and in the middle. Now draw a vertical line from the centre of the top side of the square to the centre of the baseline of the square. Draw a horizontal line from the centre of the left-hand side of the square to the centre of the right-hand side. Now you will have a large square and inside it there will be four smaller squares.

Inside the top left-hand square, and in the centre of it, draw another, smaller square, measuring about three centimetres. Write the figure three and the abbreviation 'cm.' just under the baseline of the smaller square. In the next square, to the right of the first square, draw an equilateral triangle in the middle. Each side measures about three centimetres. Write 'three cm.' inside the triangle and just above the baseline.

Inside the bottom left-hand square, in the centre, draw a circle whose diameter is three centimetres. Draw a horizontal diameter line. Write 'three cm.' inside the circle just below the diameter line. Now look at the bottom right-hand square. Inside it, in the centre, draw a rectangle whose horizontal length is about three centimetres and its width is two centimetres. Write 'three cm.' just below the baseline of the rectangle and 'two cm.' just inside the rectangle next to the left-hand vertical line.
An Abstract Design
An Abstract Design

Introduction. This is an abstract design which includes straight lines, both horizontal and vertical, and solid and broken. It also includes rectangles, a square, a circle, a triangle, some large dots and a diagonal line.

Description. In the middle of your paper draw two horizontal lines, parallel with each other. They should be about ten centimetres long and about two centimetres apart. Join the two lines together at the extreme right of the lines by drawing a vertical line. Now form a square by drawing another vertical line to the left of the one you have just drawn. Continue the vertical line you have just drawn downwards until it extends about one centimetre below the bottom horizontal line.

At the extreme left-hand end of the lower horizontal line draw a vertical line downwards so that it is the same length as the one at the right-hand end of the line. Now join the two vertical lines together by means of a horizontal line drawn parallel to the one above it.

Now look at the top horizontal line. Draw a big dot in the middle of it so that it is on top of the line. From the dot draw a diagonal line at about forty-five degrees to the right-hand side above the horizontal line. Continue drawing the line until the end of it is above the extreme right-hand end of the horizontal line.

Now, from the big dot draw a vertical broken line down to the bottom horizontal line. Where it touches the bottom line draw another big dot, just below the line.

Look now at the small square to the right of the horizontal lines. Draw a vertical line dividing the square into two halves.

Now look at the extreme left-hand end of the top horizontal line. On top of the line, at the very end, and just touching it, there is a small circle about two centimetres in diameter. Now listen carefully. Inside the circle there is a triangle; all three points touch the sides of the circle. The base of the triangle is parallel to the horizontal lines. The apex of the triangle is above the centre of the base of the triangle.
A Geometric Figure

Introduction. The diagram is a large square containing some diagonal, vertical and horizontal lines. It also contains two small circles, and the points at which they touch or cross other lines are labelled.

Description. In the centre of your paper draw a large square measuring about ten centimetres. Now draw a diagonal line from the bottom left-hand corner to the top right-hand corner. Draw another diagonal line from the bottom right-hand corner to the centre of the first diagonal line. It will meet it at right angles.

From the centre of the top side of the square draw a vertical line down which stops when it meets the first diagonal line in the centre. Then from the centre of the left-hand side of the square, draw a horizontal line to the centre of the square. It stops when it meets the other lines.

In the left-hand half of the large square you should now have a smaller square which measures about five centimetres. Halfway along the top side of the smaller square draw a vertical line down so that it divides the small square into two halves, in other words, into two rectangles. Inside the left-hand rectangle, draw a circle near the top so that it touches the top and the two sides of the rectangle. Then label the points where the circle touches the sides of the rectangle: at the top write a capital letter A outside the circle. To the left, but inside the circle, write the letter B. To the right, and inside the circle, write the letter C.

In the centre of the large square draw a slightly smaller circle than the first one. Draw it so that the centre of the circle is at the point where all the lines meet. You are now going to label with letters the points where the circle crosses the other lines. All the letters will be written outside the circle. Start at the top of the circle where it crosses the vertical line. Label this D above the circle and just to the left of the vertical line.

The other points will be labelled going round the circle to the left, in other words in an anti-clockwise direction. Label the next point E where the circle crosses the horizontal line. Write the letter E above the horizontal line. The next letter is F: write it just to the left of the diagonal line. The next letter is G: write it just to the left of the diagonal line which slopes down to the right. The final letter is H: write it just to the right of the top diagonal line.