

# WHAT TIME OF THE YEAR?

By Laura Ferroglio

**Lead-in** Look at the picture below. What colours can you see? Tell your partner.

Write the colours under the picture. Use a dictionary if necessary.



COLOURS I SEE:

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What season is in the picture? Tick the box

Spring

Summer

Autumn

Winter

## Reading

**Read the sentences below.**

- a. Winter is the slow-down
  - b. Winter is the search for self
  - c. Winter gives the silence you need to listen
  - d. Winter goes gray so you can see your own colors".
- Terri Guillemets<sup>1</sup>

**What do they mean?**

**Match a-d to sentences 1-3 below.**

**Number 0 is an example.**

**Use a dictionary if necessary.**

0. In winter people are slower \_a\_
1. Winter colours are dark, but every person's colours are bright. \_\_\_\_
2. In winter people want to find the true meaning of their life. \_\_\_\_
3. In winter everything is quiet \_\_\_\_

## Writing

Now write your own sentence about winter completing the models below. Use a dictionary if necessary.

Winter is \_\_\_\_\_

In winter \_\_\_\_\_

Now write proverbs for other seasons. Complete with the names of the seasons. Use a dictionary if necessary.

Spring is \_\_\_\_\_

In spring \_\_\_\_\_

Summer is \_\_\_\_\_

In summer \_\_\_\_\_

Autumn is \_\_\_\_\_

In autumn \_\_\_\_\_

**What is your favourite season? Why? Write it below.**

My favourite season is \_\_\_\_\_ because it is the season of

\_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>1</sup> From: <http://www.quote garden.com/winter.html>

## Speaking

Talk to your partner and tell him or her about ONE of these three points:

1. Winter
2. The other seasons
3. Your favourite season.

Use DIFFERENT words, NOT the words you used in the writing task.  
Ask your teacher for help if necessary.

Be careful: you may have to repeat your sentences two or three times before you sound fluent!

## WHAT TIME OF THE YEAR? Notes for Teachers

LEVEL: A1+

AGE: 12+

TIME: 90 to 120 MINS

SKILLS FOCUS: Reading – Writing – guided Speaking

LANGUAGE FOCUS: Vocabulary. Expressing opinions with noun phrases

AIMS:

- Personalise basic vocabulary (seasons and colours) and encourage its memorisation
- Learn to express opinions using simple noun phrases e.g. "Winter is the silence of the year")
- Produce a short text – a quote – about seasons
- Talk/Write about favourite seasons, and give a reason.

**Lead-in:** This is to encourage learners to activate basic vocabulary for colours in English. Ask them to look at the picture and encourage them to look up any words they need in a dictionary. Monitor and help for spelling and pronunciation. Similarly, help them out with pronunciation of the seasons if they need.

**Reading:** Write "Winter is..." on the board. Elicit replies. If necessary, provide an example, e.g. "Winter is...*the season of Christmas*".

Ask learners to read the quotes and compare them to the example on the board. Ask them to spend a moment thinking about their meaning: they can tell their partner or take notes. Allow the use of L1 if necessary.

Let learners do the matching task in pairs, then check.

**KEY: 1-b; 2-d; 3-c.**

### Writing:

Tell learners they are going to write their own sentences about winter, completing the sentences given, then complete similar sentences for the other seasons.

Allow learners to use dictionaries or provide any words they need and write them on the board. Monitor and correct where necessary.

Tell learners what your favourite season is and give a reason.

Encourage them to do the same completing the final sentence.

Monitor and correct where necessary.

### Speaking

Learners work in pairs and choose one point to tell their partner.

They can use the patterns, but should use different words from those they used in writing to complete the sentences. This is essentially a substitution task, so encourage learners to retrieve words either from memory or asking you for help. Monitor and give feedback.

Encourage learners to repeat any sentence for a few times until they feel confident.

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