

WHAT TIME OF THE YEAR?

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:

What season is in the picture? Tick the box

- Spring
- Summer
- Autumn
- Winter

Reading

Read the sentence below.

"Autumn is the season of change". Taoist proverb¹

What changes in autumn?

- a. Match the two halves of the sentences below. Use a dictionary if necessary.

0. (Example) People <u>a</u>	a. Go back to work
1. The leaves ___	b. Is colder
2. School___	c. Collect fruit and vegetables
3. It is___	d. Fall from trees
4. Farmers ___	e. Begins
5. The weather___	f. Dark in the afternoon

Language Focus: Present Simple

Look at the words in **bold** below. Can you substitute them? Choose **a** or **b**.

Example: trees change colour <u>a</u>	a	They
	b	It
1 The weather is colder ___	a	We
	b	It
2 People go back to work ___	a	They
	b	He
3 School begins ___	a	It
	b	You

Now underline the verbs in sentences 1-3:

Example: Autumn **is** the season of change

Compare the verbs you underlined.

Write the correct sentence number (1,2, or 3) next to the statements below:

- e. When we refer to he/she/it and use the verb TO BE, we use the form **is** Sentence n. ____
- f. When we refer to he/she/it and use OTHER VERBS, we add **-s** at the end of the verb Sentence n. ____
- g. When we refer to we/you/they we **don't add -s** at the end of the verb Sentence n. ____

¹ From: <http://www.quotegarden.com/autumn.html>

Sentences 1-3 are about things that happen in autumn. How often do they happen? Tick ✓ the correct option

Every year, regularly We don't know

Sentences 1-3 have verbs in **present simple**. Which rule below is correct? Tick the right box.

1. We use present simple for occasional events
2. We use present simple for regular events

Writing

Complete your proverb for autumn below. Use a dictionary if necessary.

Autumn is the season of _____

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

_____ is the season of _____

_____ is the season of _____

_____ is the season of _____

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

My favourite season is _____ because it is the season of _____.

Language Note



Autumn



Fall

WHAT TIME OF THE YEAR? Notes for Teachers

LEVEL: A2 AGE: 12+

TIME: 90 to 120 MINS

SKILLS FOCUS: Speaking – Reading - Writing

LANGUAGE FOCUS: Present Simple Affirmative

AIMS:

- Personalise basic vocabulary (seasons and colours) and encourage its memorisation
- Learn about form and use of Present Simple affirmative
- Produce a short text – a proverb – about seasons
- Talk 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 "Autumn is the season of..." on the board. Elicit replies. If necessary, point out/ elicit that the word that completes the sentence is a noun, and give examples.

Write "change" on the board and elicit meaning or ask learners to look it up. If necessary, draw learners' attention to the fact that "change" can be both a verb and a noun. Ask: "What changes in autumn?". Point to the leaves in the picture and say, or write "Leaves fall". Allow learners to check meaning or translate in their language if necessary.

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

KEY: 1-d; 2-e; 3-f; 4-c; 5-b.

Language Focus:

FORM: Draw learners' attention back to the sentence "Leaves fall" on the board. Underline "Leaves" and point out or elicit that it's the plural form of "leaf". Then ask learners to substitute "Leaves" with a suitable pronoun, e.g. it/we/they.

Ask them to do the same for sentences 1,2 and 3 in pairs or individually. Then check.

Now ask learners to underline the verbs in the sentences 1,2 and 3 they have just worked on, and to identify the sentence (1,2 or 3) that corresponds to each statement.

KEY: 1-b; 2-a; 3-a;

USE: Focus learners' attention on how often the events described in sentences 1 to 3 happen, and elicit the correct option, then ask to choose the correct rule.

KEY: Regularly – rule 2

Writing:

Tell learners they are going to write their own proverb about autumn, completing the sentence given then write other proverbs completing 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.

Language Note:

Draw learners' attention to the different words used in British and American English to refer to "Autumn/Fall".