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LEARNING

**7 steps towards creative thinking
in the language classroom**
John Hughes

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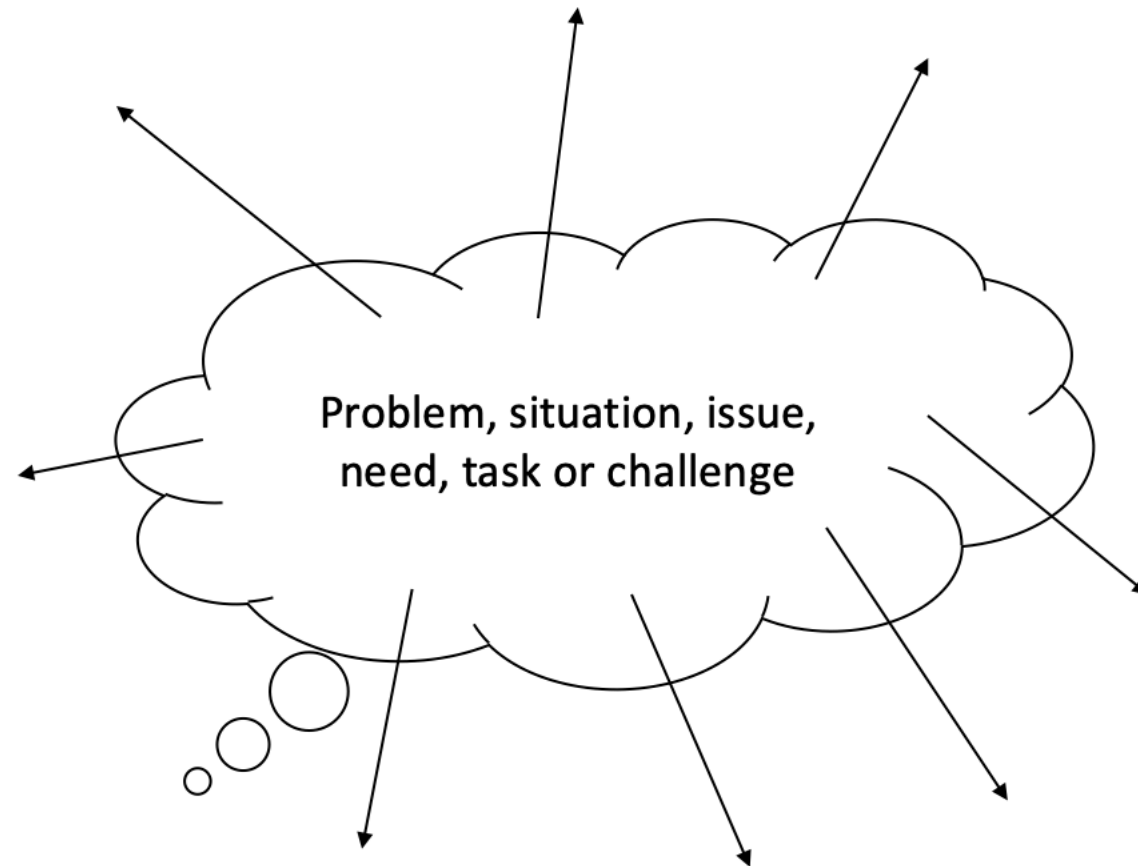
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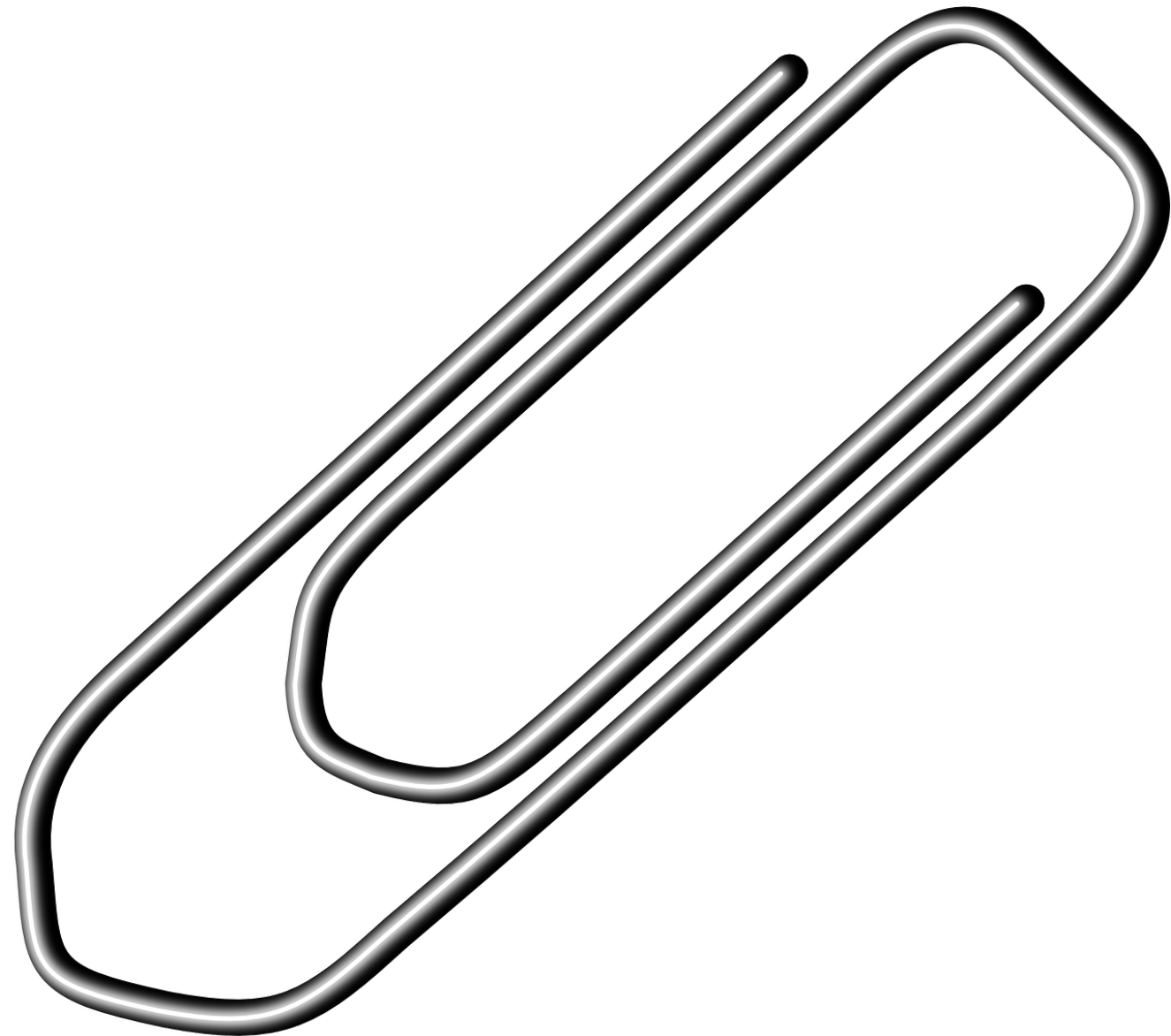
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1. Think *outside* the box

Creative thinking (divergent thinking)





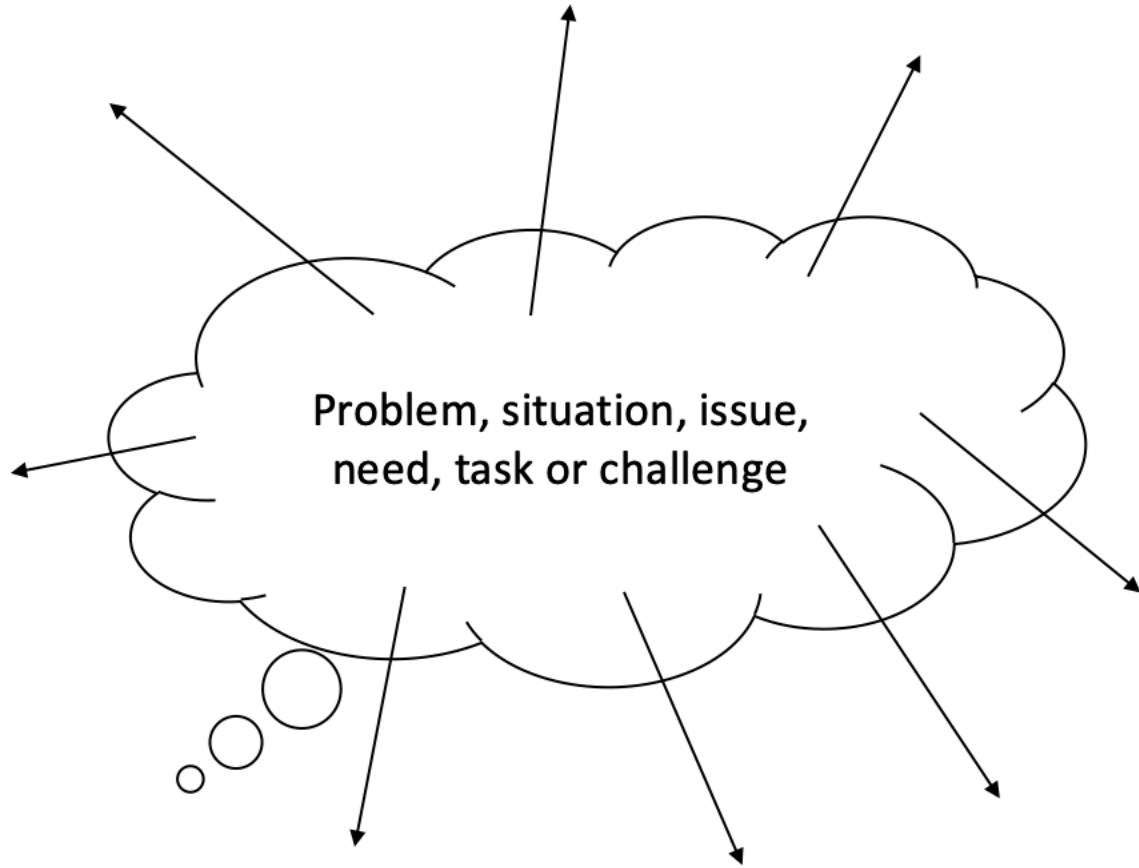
Language classroom activities

Divergent thinking

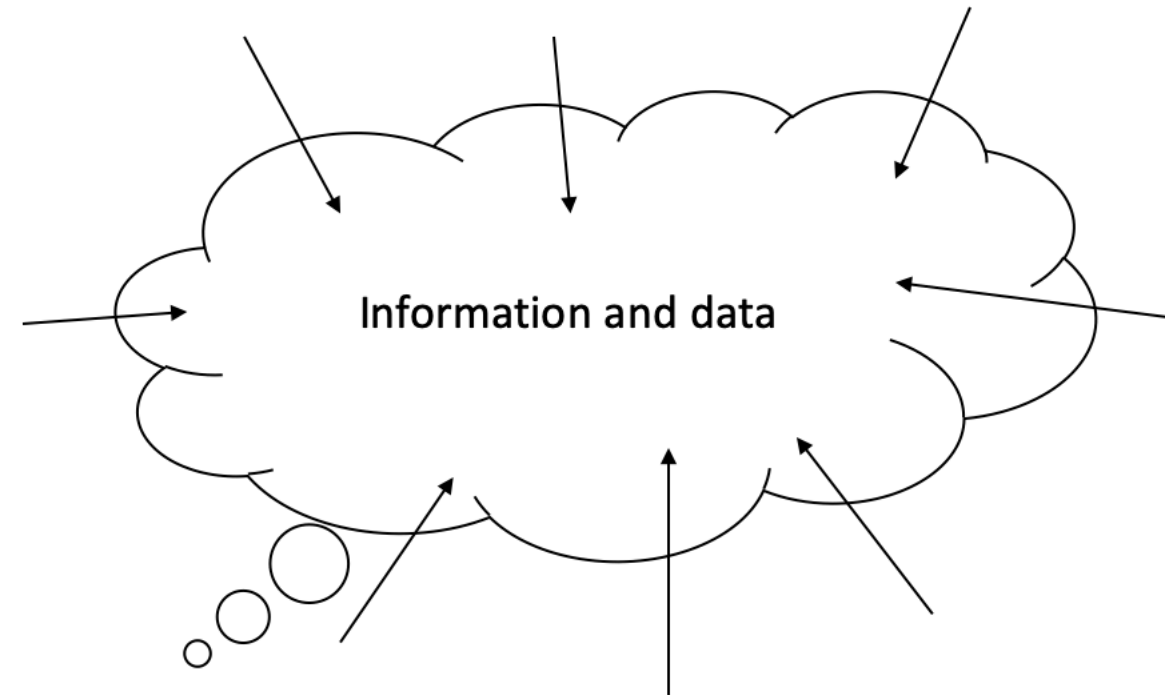
- Brainstorming
- Imagination activities
- Questions with no right/wrong answers
- Activities that encourage originality
- Linked to the productive skills

2. Think *inside* the box

Creative thinking (divergent)



Critical thinking (convergent)



Language classroom activities

Divergent thinking

- Brainstorming
- Imagination activities
- Questions with no right/wrong answers
- Activities that encourage originality
- Linked to the productive skills

Convergent thinking

- Analysis and evaluation of ideas
- Activities with limitations
- Activities with a correct answer
- Activities encouraging imitation
- Linked to the receptive skills

Writing

D These ads are from an app where people can buy and sell clothes. Do you ever use apps like this?



Beautiful, gray and blue, wool sweater. It was made in Italy, and it's so soft and warm! I'm a size 8–10, so it would fit anyone around that size.
Price \$15



Large, new swimsuit. I bought it last summer in Mexico, but I never wore it! It is made out of nylon, I think.
Price \$13



Comfortable, gray sneakers in great condition! They're perfect for everyday wear and they're very fashionable.
Price \$11

WRITING SKILLS: Describing Objects, Adjective Order, and Punctuation

Describing Objects
When you describe objects, such as clothes, you can use these phrases:
It's / They're made in (Italy). It's / They're perfect for (jogging). It's / They're so / very (comfortable).

Adjective Order
When you use more than one adjective before the object, use this order (from left to right):

Opinion	Size	Age	Color	Nationality	Material	Object
beautiful			black	Italian		sweater
	large	new			cotton	shorts
comfortable			blue and white			sneakers

Punctuation
Use commas between the adjectives: *It's a beautiful, black, Italian sweater.*

✓ **GOAL CHECK** Describe Clothes

1. Write three ads to sell items of clothing or other objects (e.g., a bicycle, phone, etc.).
2. Put your ads around the classroom and read what your classmates want to sell. Check that they have written their adjectives in the correct order.

Convergent

Divergent

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Communication

- A** Think about a place you would really like to live, such as a peaceful village in the countryside or an exciting, modern city like Bogotá. Make a list of the top five things you would want that place to have.
- B** Interview your classmates. Find someone whose list includes at least three things that are also on your list. Discuss why these things are important to you both.
- C** Interview your classmates again. Find someone whose list includes at least three things that are *not* on your list. Ask questions to find out why these things are important to him or her.

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Convergent

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3. Steal like an artist

D GOAL Discuss Fashion

Reading

- A** Look at the photo. Which country do you think the woman is from? What is she wearing?
- B** Read the article. Check your predictions in **A** and match the titles to paragraphs 1–3.
- The modern lives of the “cholitas” 2
 - Women with a special style of clothing 1
 - International “chola” fashion 3
- C** Read the article again. Answer these questions.
- What was difficult for these women in the past? How are their lives different today?
 - Why did Delphine Blast photograph some of the women?
 - In which countries do people wear Eliana’s clothes?
 - Where did she show her clothes recently?
- D** Match the words in bold to the definitions.
- You might see women wearing **unique** clothing. c
 - This is the **fashion** of Aymaran women. a
 - She loved the **style** of the “cholitas” in the street. d
 - Many women ... want to wear these **outfits**. b
- popular type of clothes
 - set of clothing (e.g., for a special occasion)
 - very different from others
 - a way of doing something (e.g., wearing certain clothes)

✓ GOAL CHECK

- Do you agree or disagree with each statement? Why? Write notes in your notebook.
 - Bowler hats are popular in my country.
 - People with stylish clothes are always rich.
 - School uniforms are a good idea.
 - Stylish shoes are better than comfortable ones.
 - Men should always wear suits to work.
 - Women spend more money on clothes than men.
 - Fashion in the 20th century was better than it is now.
 - Most people like shopping for clothes.
- In groups, discuss the statements. Give your opinions with reasons for your answers.

Pride Through Fashion



- If you visit the Andes regions of Bolivia, Peru, or Chile, you might see women wearing unique clothing: bowler hats on top of their long black hair, handmade shawls, colorful blouses and skirts, and lots of jewelry. This is the fashion of Aymaran women. The Aymara are an **indigenous** group of people from the Andes mountains and Aymaran women’s clothing is very different from any others. Locally, these women are called “cholitas” with their “chola” fashion.
- In the past, it was difficult for Aymaran women to get good jobs or an education. They often lived in poorer parts of the cities. But in modern Bolivia, this is changing. More and more Aymaran women go to school and college. They often get well-paid jobs, so they now have money to spend on more expensive clothes. When French photographer Delphine Blast visited La Paz, the capital of Bolivia, she loved the style of the cholitas in the street, so she photographed some of these fashionably-dressed women.
- Eliana Paco Paredes is an Aymaran fashion designer, and she says that chola clothes are in fashion at the moment, both in Bolivia and in other countries. She has a store in La Paz and sells the clothes to local people, and also internationally. “We dress many people in Peru, Argentina, Chile, Brazil, and some products we make go to Spain and Italy.” Recently, Eliana showed her clothes at New York’s Fashion Week, where they were very popular. “We’re getting people to learn about what this clothing is, ... and many women outside of Bolivia want to wear these outfits.” The popularity of the clothes is very satisfying for Eliana because it’s good for her business, but it’s also important because being “chola” now comes with a lot of **pride**.

indigenous people who were in a country before anyone else
pride a feeling of satisfaction from achievements, qualities, or possessions

4. Break habitual patterns of thinking

Information for tourists and visitors in Australia

1

- You **have to** get a holiday visa from the Australian Embassy before you leave.
- Tourists **can** stay for a maximum of six months.
- You **can't** work in Australia without a work visa. You **have to** get a visa from the Australian Embassy in your country.

2

- The currency is Australian dollars.
- Most shops, hotels and banks in large cities accept credit cards.
- In smaller towns, always have cash with you.

3

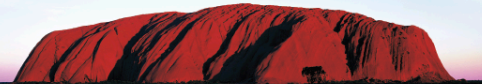
- Australia is a multicultural country so there are many different languages.
- Most people speak or understand English.

4

- The climate is different in different areas of the country.
- Summers are very hot and the temperature is often over 40°C. Always use lots of sun cream and wear a hat.

5

- Tourists **don't have to** get a new driving licence. But if you stay here for more than one year, you **have to** take an Australian driving test.



Ayers Rock or Uluru, Australia

Grammar **have to / don't have to, can / can't**

▶ HAVE TO / DON'T HAVE TO, CAN / CAN'T

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For further information and practice, see page 178.

- 6 Look at the grammar box. Answer these questions about the verbs in bold.

- 1 Which verb means it is necessary?
- 2 Which verb means it is possible?
- 3 Which verb means it is not necessary?
- 4 Which verb means it is not possible?
- 5 What form of the verb comes after the verbs in bold?

You **have to** drive on the right.
 You **don't have to** wear a school uniform.
 You **can** get married when you are 18.
 You **can't** leave school before you are 18.

Sea Island

You can swim with the dolphins.
You don't have to pay taxes.

MoldoSyria

You have to study English.
You can't have a car. You have to cycle.

Bromanitaly

In the morning you have to drive on the right, and in the evening you have to drive on the left.

Receptionist: Hello, can I help you?

Guest: I have a reservation. My name is Long. Jane Long.

Receptionist: Ah, yes. For two nights.

Guest: That's right.

Receptionist: Can I have your passport and a credit card?

Guest: Sure. Here you are.

Receptionist: Can you fill in this form?

Guest: Of course.

Receptionist: Here is your key. Your room is 301 on the 3rd floor.
Breakfast is between 7 and 10 on the first floor.

Guest: Thank you very much.

Receptionist: Hello, can I help you?

Guest: I have a reservation. My name is Long. Jane Long.

Receptionist: Ah, yes. For two nights.

Guest: That's right.

Receptionist: Can I have your passport and a credit card?

Guest: Sure. Here you are.

Receptionist: I'm sorry but this isn't your passport.

Guest: What?!

Receptionist: ...

Guest: ...

Receptionist: ...

Guest: ...

Conversation



63

Listen to the conversation. Who started his own business?

Alfredo: Hi, Pete. I haven't seen you for a long time. What's new?

Pete: Lots! I quit my job and I've started my own computer business.

Alfredo: Congratulations! When did you open the business?

Pete: Eight months ago. It's going really well. What about you?

Alfredo: I'm still working at the bank, but I've gone back to school.

Pete: Great, when did you do that?

Alfredo: Last month.



Practice the conversation in pairs. Switch roles and practice it again.



Change the underlined words and practice the conversation again.

5. Ask higher order thinking questions

- On average, 2 questions per minute, 400 per day
- That's 70,000 a year, 2-4 million in a career
- 4-8% of questions are higher order
- Allow 3 seconds for lower order, 10 seconds for higher
- On average, a student asked 1 question per lesson

- What else...?
- How could you make it better?
- What would happen if...
- What do you think will happen next?
- How could we do it differently?
- Can you add something...?

WRITING SKILL: Types of Questions

Closed (Yes / No) questions

Do you (use / like / visit)...?

Is / Are there...?

Would you (recommend / use / play)...?

Can you...?

Open (*Wh-* / *How*) questions

What do you...?

Which services do you...?

When / Where / Why do you...?

How often do you...?

How happy are you with...?

6. Allow thinking time

POLL

When and where do you have your most creative ideas?

- In the shower (or bath)
- At work or school
- Travelling to and from work
- Walking in the countryside
- Doing physical exercise; e.g. at the gym
- On vacation
- None of the above (write in the chatroom where)

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- On vacation

The Last Words Ever Breathed



An Anthology
by the Students
of Oxford Spires Academy
2016-17

The Last Words Ever Breathed

The sun at dawn
The sun in a happy mood
Blue skies
Pale but full clouds
The sun being dragged towards the green earth
Getting lower
Good bye, sun

Seemin Mohammed

7. Share like an artist

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7 steps to creative thinking in the classroom

1 Think outside the box

2 Think inside the box

3 Steal like an artist

4 Break habitual patterns of thinking

5 Ask higher order thinking questions

6 Allow thinking time

7 Share like an artist

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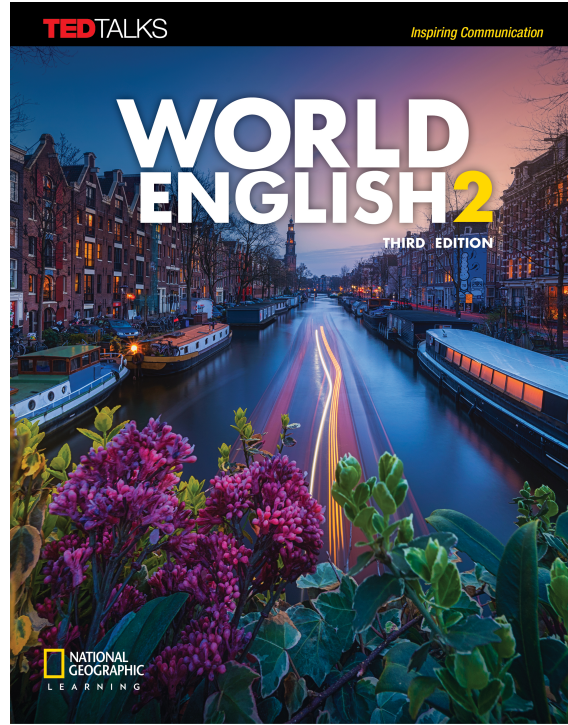
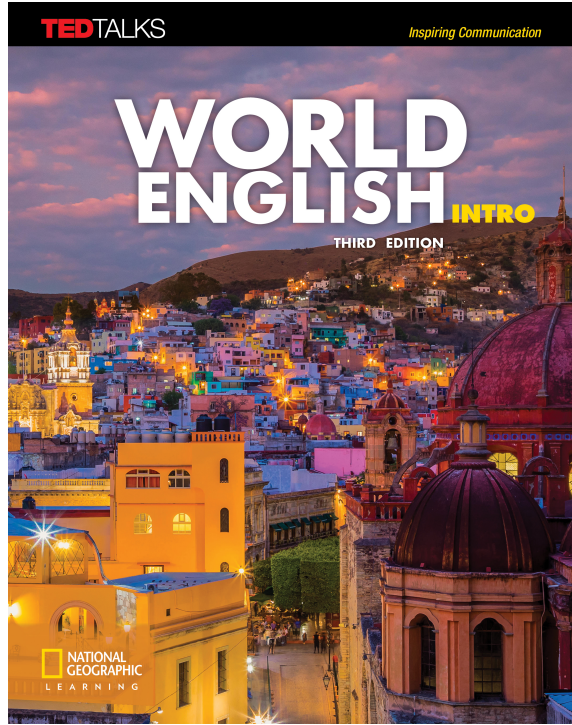
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