

migrant  
*literacies*



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# My own dictionary

by Tartu Folk High School

Students create their own or classroom “dictionaries” by taking photos of the objects (also signs) they want to learn in their native language. The idea is very simple and can be modified in many ways and adapted to different levels of literacy. It gives the students meaningful learning experiences.



## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

TARGET GROUP	Individual work, suitable for all ages, most suitable for illiterate or low literate students who can take pictures.
TIME	6 hours
FORM	It can be a project work or included in the regular classes.
SPACE	Regular classroom with wifi (for presentations).
TOPICS COVERED	Basic vocabulary from my closest environment / various topics depending on students interest.
TOOLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Smartphone;</li><li>• Photocollage, PicCollage or just a Word file to save photos and add words</li></ul>
OBJECTIVES	The idea is to encourage illiterate or low literate students to independent learning by giving them free hands for picking the most essential information from environment and not putting them pressure of using difficult tools, giving meaningful learning experiences.
LINGUISTIC SKILLS	Discovering and learning of new words and logographic reading skill (signs in the city).
DIGITAL/ MEDIA LITERACY REFERENCE	Using smartphones for taking photos, uploading or sending them to teacher`s email. Using simple tools (Word) or apps for compiling dictionary.

# STEP BY STEP DESCRIPTION

## STEP 1

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### Time

2 hours

### Objective

To prepare students for independent work with their "cameras".

### Material

- Smartphone
- computer

### Literacy skills

Basic digital and alphabetic skills.

### Activity description

*Preparation for individual work, tutorial*

Explaining the idea of "my own dictionary" by showing some examples. Making sure that everybody knows how to take pictures and send them to teachers' email. Practising by taking pictures of the objects in the classroom and sending them to teachers email. Teacher will download the pictures to the computer and saving them in one Word file or using some app (PicCollage, Padlet, Thinglink).

#### Comments:

Depending on the students digital skills this task could be accomplished in a very simple way (described) or using more complex and creative tools and apps.

Students select a topic (food items, furniture, city etc or signs in the city for more advanced students) they would like to work with.

#### Comments:

Optional: the same topic for everyone

## STEP 2

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### Time

2 hours

### Activity description

*Work-based learning outside the classroom*

### Objective

Independent work, making observations and taking photos in one's closest environment.

Individual work outside of the classroom, taking pictures and sending them to teachers email.

### Material

- Smartphone

(Optional: elaborating the pictures, adding words)

### Literacy skills

Basic digital and alphabetic skills.

Comments:

More advanced students could make the dictionary as a homework and then teach others (flipped classroom).

## STEP 3

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### Time

2 hours

### Activity description

Compiling the dictionary

### Objective

To develop the skill of categorizing objects, learning new vocabulary, teaching new vocabulary to fellow students.

Teacher will save all the pictures in one Word file, every student will categorize the objects and name the categories / make different files. Students compare the results. Pictures are printed out and explored together. Teacher will help to find the words for the objects if not yet found. Each student or pair of students will prepare a task with pictures and words (odd one out, memorine picture+matching word, flashcards etc. Different work stations will be set up and teacher will move the students through work stations in the classroom to complete a task at each station.

### Material

- computer
- paper
- glue
- scissors

### Literacy skills

- expanding vocabulary
- improving reading
- learning new digital skills

## STEP 5

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### Time

30 min.

### Objective

Learning to use the applications for making illustrated descriptions. Learning how to change keyboard language, if needed.

### Material

It's easier to do it in tablet or PC, but works well also in mobile phone.

### Literacy skills

- digital
- linguistic

### Activity description

Teacher will show how to upload photos to [www.photocollage.com](http://www.photocollage.com) or another similar program and add text to photos. Learners will try to do same things.

## STEP 6

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### Time

45 min.

### Objective

- To make a photo collage;
- revising learned phrases.

### Material

- [www.photocollage.com](http://www.photocollage.com),
- mobile phone,
- tablet or PC

### Literacy skills

- digital
- linguistic

### Activity description

Learners complete their photo collage. Advisable to number pictures and add learned phrases.