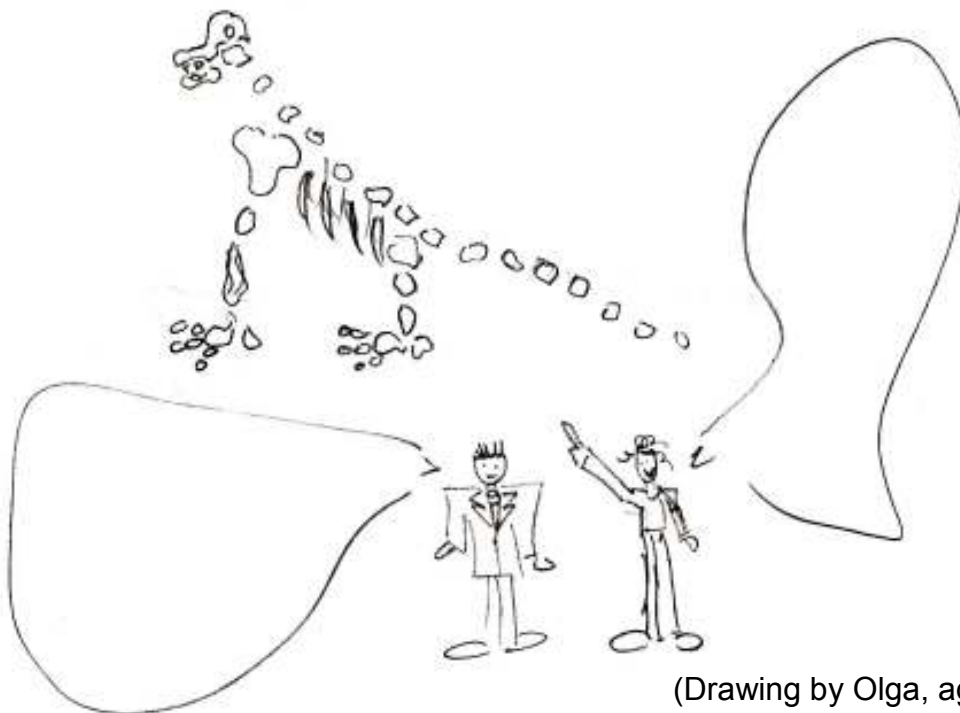


Lesson plan: The T. rex joke

1. Give your students the following instructions:

I want you to draw a picture of a man in the natural history museum. He is pointing to the skeleton of a Tyrannosaurus rex and speaking to a museum guide. The man is standing on the left and the guide is standing on the right. The T. rex skeleton is in the background, facing left. Draw two speech bubbles – one coming out of the man's mouth and another coming out of the guide's mouth.

2. Check your learners' understanding of the task by getting them to relay these instructions back to you.
3. Get everyone to draw their picture on a scrap piece of paper.



(Drawing by Olga, age 27)

4. Let everyone compare their artwork.
5. Find out how much your students know about the T. rex. Then ask them to decide what the visitor and the guide are talking about. This could lead to a role play.
6. Divide your class into two groups (group A and group B) and bring everyone's attention back to the drawings.

Dictate the following captions:

- **Can you tell me how old this skeleton is?** (This should be written in the man's speech bubble by group A students only.)
 - **Yes, it's 65 million years and 8 months old.** (This should be written in the guide's speech bubble by group A students only.)
 - **How can you be so exact?** (This should be written in the man's speech bubble by group B students only.)
 - **Well, it was 65 million years old when I started working here and that was 8 months ago.** (This should be written in the guide's speech bubble by group B students only.)
7. Put your students' drawings up on the classroom wall. Make sure that you pair up student A drawings with student B drawings so that the comic strip makes sense.
 8. Tell your students that they have converted a joke into a comic strip. Tell them that you have a copy of the joke and that you will give it to them in a moment but first you want them to attempt to write it out in their own words. You may want to draw their attention to the fact that we generally write jokes in the present tenses.
 9. Let your students compare their versions of the joke with each other and make changes if they desire. Offer advice for improvement and finally dictate your version of the joke.

A visitor in the natural history museum asks the guide the age of a T. rex skeleton. The guide tells him that it is 65 million years and 8 months old. "How can you be so exact?" asks the visitor. "Well it was 65 million years old when I started working here and that was 8 months ago," replies the guide.

10. Get your students to find out about the T. Rex for homework.

