

WEEK 4 ASSESSING LEARNING

Task: Analysing test questions

Commentary

Compare the suggestions below to your own ideas.

1. The problem is that more than one answer could be correct. There really isn't enough context to say which future form is more appropriate, and it is confusing for learners, because it suggests only one answer is correct.

You could improve this question by:

- Changing the options so that only one answer is correct
- Adding more context so that learners can better choose between the future forms

2. This could be completed in so many different ways! It is not clear what this is aiming to test – the past continuous? Adjectives? Passive forms? The learner's creativity?

You could improve this question by:

- Changing it to a gapfill focussing on the item you want to test
- Giving learners a choice of ways to complete the sentence
- Asking learners to include a specific word in the sentence

3. Again, more than one answer is possible, which means it is confusing for learners and difficult to mark. Learners could argue that any one of the words is different (if they are creative enough!) Also, some of these words are very similar in meaning.

You could improve this question by:

- Rewording the question to be more specific – different in what way?
- Changing it to a gapfill where learners choose the correct answer according to the context and usage

4. The problem with both 4 and 5 is that they seem to test writing skills rather than listening or reading.

You could improve this question by:

- Changing it to a more specific question type that doesn't involve so much writing e.g. circle/underline/tick the correct answer