

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Section \_\_\_\_\_

## www.earthcam.com

An EFL lesson based on the authentic web site  
Intermediate

3 class periods

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The latest version of this lesson, and similar lessons by Scott South, are at [iteslj.org/t/ws](http://iteslj.org/t/ws).

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*Earthcam is a large collection of live-camera links: views of everything from the home of a San Francisco software engineer who calls herself “baddgrrl” to the Chaminade University of Hawaii campus. This lesson asks students to match descriptions with camera views (combines reading skills with information retrieval) and also to write their own descriptions.*

### **What should I do?**

1. Go to [www.earthcam.com/](http://www.earthcam.com/) and type  in the search box at the top of the page. Next, click on [BaddGrrl's HomeCam](#).

2. Then, choose [HomeCam](#) again.

Now match the following descriptions with the correct pictures.

3. Match the following [Archive 3](#) pictures with the correct descriptions. The first one has been done for you.

Description	Picture number
(a) Her legs are crossed, she looks perplexed, and she's wearing purple slippers	5-3-00-2
(b) She has her hand in her hair and she looks very puzzled.	
(c) “bebe” is looking down at her keyboard.	
(d) She's bending over, and you can't see her face	
(e) She's wearing a low-cut dress (not a sweater).	

4. Now you're going to describe her Archive 6, picture #9-25-00-1. Describe her clothes and how they fit. What is she doing? What is the expression on her face? What might she be thinking about? Write a paragraph of about 50 words or more.

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5. Now look at all her office pictures. Which one do you like best? (Identify it by the Archive and picture numbers.)

Archive \_\_\_\_\_ Picture \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Which one do you like least? Archive \_\_\_\_\_ Picture \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What do you think of her personality? What kind of person is she, do you think? Write two or three sentences and at least 40 words.

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7. Well done! Now let's go back to the home page. This time, you're going to explore the different MetroCams and match descriptions with pictures of city scenes. For some pictures, you must find the picture that fits the description. For others, you must write the description yourself.

The first one has been done for you.

(a) In the lower-left corner you can see part of a pool. Above the pool there is a curving sidewalk, and to the right of the sidewalk is a park with trees and grass.	Houston Museum of Natural Science
(b)	Seattle
(c) Here you can see a large green area, with a big city in the background.	
(d) It looks like the Capitol Building in Washing D.C., but it's not in Washington—it's on a green mountain.	
(e)	Phoenix, Arizona
(f) This picture shows a lot of green, open space and a single, very tall monument that is pointed at the top.	
(g)	Nashville
(h) This one shows a big ship docked.	

8. Like number 7 above, but for university campuses. To find the right links, click on [schools/universities](#) on the home page. Match the descriptions below with the following universities and colleges:

- Bucknell University
- Northern Illinois University
- Creighton University
- Penn State University
- Iowa State University

Description of campus picture	Link (from those listed above)
Beautiful park-like setting, with a college building in the background and large trees, grass and sidewalks in the foreground	
Click on “postcards” and you’ll see a picture of a rainbow over the main campus.	
For this university webcam, you can choose different times. Click for 11:00 am, and you’ll see a fountain in the foreground, some trees, and a tower in the background.	
Lovely park-like setting with campus quadrangle; many pathways with trees on both sides and college buildings on the left side.	
In the foreground is a triangle-shaped strip of grass with a big tree on it, surrounded by lots of paved walkways and a circular paved area behind it. Behind the circular area are some horizontal dormitories and, on the left, a highrise building.	

9. Click on Bucknell University Webcam. On the next page, click on Night time? Can't see anything? View some recent snapshots. Which one is the prettiest to you? \_\_\_\_\_ Describe it in at least 25 words.

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## ANSWER KEY

3.

Description	Picture number
(a) Her legs are crossed, she looks perplexed, and she's wearing purple slippers	5-3-00-2
(b) She has her hand in her hair and she looks very puzzled.	5-18-4
(c) "bebe" is looking down at her keyboard.	5-17-00-1
(d) She's bending over, and you can't see her face	5-22-00
(e) She's wearing a low-cut dress (not a sweater).	6-13-00-3

4. Variable written answer

5 and 6. Variable answers.

7.

Description	Full label next to picture
(a) In the lower-left corner you can see part of a pool. Above the pool there is a curving sidewalk, and to the right of the sidewalk is a park with trees and grass.	Houston Museum of Natural Science
(b) A tall and very modern-looking observation tower	Seattle
© Here you can see a large green area, with a big city in the background.	Chicago
(d) It looks like the Capitol Building in Washing D.C., but it's not in Washington—it's on a green mountain.	Salt Lake City
(e) There's a yellow building in the foreground and a red mountain in the background.	Phoenix, Arizona
(f) This picture shows a lot of green, open space and a single, very tall monument that is pointed at the top.	Washington, D.C.—Metro Square Cam
(g) This shows a river with lots of greenery on both sides.	Nashville
(h) This one shows a big ship docked.	Duluth, Minnesota

8.

Description of campus picture	Link (from those listed above)
Beautiful park-like setting, with a college building in the background and large trees, grass and sidewalks in the foreground	Penn State "Lioncam"
Click on "postcards" and you'll see a picture of a rainbow over the main campus.	Creighton University
For this university webcam, you can choose different times. Click for 11:00 am, and you'll see a fountain in the foreground, some trees, and a tower in the background.	Iowa State University
Lovely park-like setting with campus quadrangle; many pathways with trees on both sides and college buildings on the left side.	Bucknell University
In the foreground is a triangle-shaped strip of grass with a big tree on it, surrounded by lots of paved walkways and a circular paved area behind it. Behind the circular area are some horizontal dormitories and, on the left, a highrise building.	Northern Illinois University

9. Student should be describing one of five shots of the same campus quadrangle (at different times of the year).