

¿Verdad o Mentira?

Truth or Lie? · Grades 5–8 · Spanish · 30 minutes

Students learn vocabulary for truth, lies, and visual deception while exploring how optical illusions connect to the theme of appearances vs. reality. Designed for novice-low to novice-mid learners with heritage speaker support.

THE 30 MINUTES

5 min
HOOK

8 min
VOCABULARY

10 min
SPIRIT PHOTOS

5 min
GAME

2 min
CLOSE

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Students will acquire vocabulary related to truth/deception (*verdad, mentira, real, falso, creer, ver*), practice expressing opinions using “Creo que...” and “Pienso que...”, and connect language learning to critical thinking about visual media.

STANDARDS ALIGNMENT

- **ACTFL:** Interpersonal Communication (novice-mid), Presentational Communication (novice-mid)
- **TEKS §114.22:** Engage in conversations using simple phrases and sentences.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Spirit photography example from Mini Museum
- Vocabulary cards or projected word list
- Student handouts (three levels available)
- Mini Museum Perception Lab:
minimuseumproject.org/exhibitions/seeing-is-deceiving/illusions

KEY VOCABULARY

la verdad the truth
falso/falsa false/fake
ver to see
la foto(grafía) the photo

la mentira the lie
verdadero/a true
engañar to trick/deceive

real real
creer to believe
los ojos the eyes

SENTENCE FRAMES (FOR ALL LEVELS)

Creo que es... I believe it is...
¿Es verdad o mentira? Is it truth or lie?
La foto es real/falsa. The photo is real/fake.

Pienso que es... I think it is...
Mis ojos ven... My eyes see...

HOOK · 5 MINUTES

¿Qué ves? — What do you see?

Display an optical illusion. Point to your eyes.

“¿Qué ven tus ojos?” (What do your eyes see?) — Have students call out what they see. Then reveal the illusion. “¡Tus ojos te engañan!” (Your eyes trick you!)

Introduce key vocabulary: *ver, los ojos, engañar, la verdad, la mentira*. Use gestures and visuals.

VOCABULARY INTRODUCTION · 8 MINUTES

Present vocabulary with Total Physical Response (TPR) and comprehensible input:

- **Verdad** — thumbs up, nod head
- **Falso** — wave hand like “no”
- **Mentira** — thumbs down, shake head
- **Creer** — hand on heart
- **Real** — touch something solid

Quick practice: Show images, students respond “¡Verdad!” or “¡Mentira!”

MINI MUSEUM CONNECTION · 10 MINUTES

La Fotografía de Espíritus

Show spirit photography example.

“En 1862, un fotógrafo dijo: ‘Puedo fotografiar fantasmas.’ Muchas personas creyeron. ¿Es verdad o mentira?” (In 1862, a photographer said: ‘I can photograph ghosts.’ Many people believed. Is it truth or lie?)

Partner practice: Students discuss using sentence frames: “Creo que es mentira porque...” (I believe it’s a lie because...). Heritage speakers can help partners with vocabulary.

ACTIVITY · 5 MINUTES

¿Verdad o Mentira? Game

Show 4–5 images (mix of real and manipulated). Students hold up VERDAD or MENTIRA cards. After each: “¿Por qué crees eso?” (Why do you believe that?) — Students respond using sentence frames.

CLOSING · 2 MINUTES

Reflection

“No todo lo que vemos es verdad. Debemos pensar antes de creer.” (Not everything we see is truth. We should think before believing.)

Exit ticket: Students write one sentence using new vocabulary.

MINI MUSEUM CONNECTION

Option 1 — Visit: Students describe artifacts using Spanish: “Veo una foto. Creo que es falsa.”

Option 2 — Virtual: Explore the exhibition online.

minimuseumproject.org/exhibitions/seeing-is-deceiving

DIFFERENTIATION NOTES

- **Novice learners:** Focus on single words and simple sentence frames; use visuals heavily
- **Heritage speakers:** Encourage expanded responses, help peers, write more complex sentences
- **All levels:** Accept code-switching; vocabulary is the goal, not perfect grammar

ASSESSMENT

- **Formative:** Observe vocabulary use during game and partner work.
- **Exit ticket:** Write one sentence: “Creo que _____ es verdad/mentira porque _____.”