

Activity 11: Express yourself

Interaction: Group work

Aims: To practice giving opinions, agreeing, and disagreeing.

To encourage cooperation in groups.

Skill: Speaking

Grammar and functions: Giving opinions, agreeing, and disagreeing

Vocabulary: General

Preparation: Make one copy of the worksheet for each group of four to six students.

Time: 15 minutes

Procedure

- 1 Divide the class into groups of four to six students.
- 2 Explain that you are going to give each group ten controversial statements. Each group must read the statements **quickly** and choose two of them to discuss. They have just five minutes to discuss each one, after which time the members of the group will vote on whether they agree or disagree with the statement.
- 3 Ask each group to choose a spokesperson. Give one copy of the worksheet to each spokesperson. This spokesperson reads the statements to the others in the group.
- 4 Each group chooses two statements. They think of a couple of points individually on the agreed first statement, then they discuss the statement. Tell them when the five minutes for discussion is over, and they vote on whether they agree with the statement or not. They repeat the procedure with the second statement.
- 5 Monitor the students and provide help if necessary.
- 6 Conduct a brief feedback and discussion session with the whole class.

Additional ideas

Ask the students to put their chairs in two circles, an inner and an outer circle, with an identical number of chairs in each circle. Each chair in the inner circle should face a chair in the outer circle. Give one statement to each student in the inner circle (cut the worksheet where indicated before the lesson). Give the students two to three minutes to discuss each statement. After this time, have the students in the outer circle move one seat **clockwise**, and the students in the inner circle pass their statements **counterclockwise**. Continue until all the students have discussed five statements.

Activity 12: Survivors

Interaction: Group work

Aims: To practice giving opinions, agreeing, and disagreeing.

To practice negotiating priorities and preferences.

Skill: Speaking

Grammar and functions: Giving opinions, agreeing, and disagreeing

Vocabulary: General

Preparation: Make one copy of the worksheet for each group of four students.

Time: 15 minutes

Procedure

- 1 Divide the class into groups of four students. Tell them that they are going to discuss a situation and negotiate the outcome.
- 2 Explain that there is a fire in a hotel. Fourteen people are trapped on the 32nd floor. There is one elevator working, which holds a maximum of eight people, and it can only go down once. Each group has to decide which eight of the fourteen people they will save, and why. Tell the students that they have about ten minutes to make their decision, so they will have to work quickly.
- 3 Give one copy of the worksheet to each group. Have the groups discuss the situation. Monitor the students unobtrusively and give help when it is needed. Tell them when the ten minutes is almost over so they can end their discussion.
- 4 Conduct a brief feedback and discussion session with the whole class.

Additional ideas

Ask the students to ignore the notes on the worksheet and to base their decision solely on the relative worth, in their opinion, of the different professions.

The aim of education is to prepare children for work.

**All companies, even private ones, have a
responsibility to society.**

**Women should be promoted to top management
positions in preference to men.**

**The Internet is the most important invention
of the last 50 years.**

**Genetically modified (GM) foods are too
dangerous to develop.**

The possibility of living to 200 is only 50 years away.

Nothing can stop globalization.

Dangerous sports, like boxing, should be banned.

**Individual countries do not have the right to interfere
in the affairs of other countries.**

Extreme political parties should be banned.

<i>Profession</i>	<i>Notes</i>
A company president	Male, 66, wife died last year in a traffic accident
A lawyer	Female, 38, mother of four young children
A cook	Female, 46, takes care of her elderly mother
A mailman	Male, 41, suffering from cancer but responding to treatment
A priest	Male, 54, does a lot of community work
An accountant	Male, 38, gives a lot of money to charity
A politician	Female, 41, active environmentalist
A journalist	Female, 29, recently voted journalist of the year for exposing illegal drug trade
A professional musician	Female, 25, has recorded several successful CDs
A professional soccer player	Male, 28, a millionaire
A police officer	Male, 31, has a six-month-old son
A farmer	Male, 51, has made two failed suicide attempts
A doctor	Female, 44, consultant in children's illnesses
A shop assistant	Female, 17, an only child