

Activity Type

Speaking activity

Focus

Yes/no questions and short answers

Aim

To guess the name of a famous person or character by asking yes/no questions.

Preparation

None

Level

Pre-intermediate (A2-B1)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

In this engaging yes/no questions game, students guess the name of a famous person or character by asking 20 yes/no questions. This game is useful for practicing a variety of yes/no questions and short answers.

Procedure

Choose one student to come and sit at the front of the class. Write the name of a famous person or character on a piece of paper and give it to the player. The other students then take it in turns to ask the player yes/no questions in order to find out their secret identity. A 'yes' answer from the player earns a student another chance to ask a question.

When a student correctly guesses the player's identity, they become the next mystery person. If the students are unable to guess the right answer after 20 questions, the answer is revealed and a new student is chosen to come to the front of the class.

Depending on the level of your students, you may need to write up some example questions to get the students started.

Example questions:

Are you male?	Are you a real person?
Are you an adult?	Are you alive?
Are you an actor?	Are you a scientist?
Are you a cartoon character?	Are you Japanese?
Do you play a sport?	Do you work in Hollywood?
Do you play an instrument?	Have you written a book?

For higher-level students, you can play a variation of the game called 'Animal, Vegetable or Mineral'. Instead of choosing a famous person or character, the player's identity is an animal, vegetable or mineral.

This game is slightly different as the first question is always 'Are you an animal, vegetable or mineral?' This is the only question the students may ask that does not require a yes or no answer. Apart from that, the game is the same. The type of yes/no questions the students ask will depend on the first answer.

Example questions:

Can I eat you?
Are you made of plastic?
Are you heavy?
Do you have fur?