

Activity Type

Speaking activity

Focus

'Wh' questions

Aim

To ask 'Wh' questions in order to find out who is lying and who is telling the truth about a secret.

Preparation

None

Level

Pre-intermediate (A2-B1)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

Here is a fun mystery game to play on the first day of class that helps motivate students to ask questions and learn interesting things about one another.

Procedure

Give each student a slip of paper.

To start, students write their name on the slip of paper and a secret about themselves, such as a hidden talent, skill, accomplishment, etc.

After that, collect in the slips, read them, and choose one slip that has an interesting secret on it.

Next, invite three students to go out of the classroom. One of the three students must be the person who wrote the secret.

Go out of the room and tell the three students the secret on the slip and explain that they must all claim to have that secret.

Bring the three students back into the room and sit them down in front of the class.

Tell the class the secret and explain that the secret belongs to one of the three students.

The students' task is to ask the three students 'Wh' questions to determine which students are lying and which student is telling the truth.

After a few minutes of questioning, the students vote for the person they think is telling the truth.

Each student who guessed correctly scores one point.

Then, choose another secret and repeat the process and so on.

The student with the most points at the end of the game wins.