

Scenario of speaking classes

Topic: Speed dating – speaking exercises.

Main goal: getting to know each other using English

Detailed objectives: engage every single student at the exact same time to speak English, exchange factual information, review English vocabulary and grammar

Teaching aids: a set of questions on different topics concerning everyday life

Methods:

- working in pairs - students have mini “speed” conversations with their foreign peers

The course of the lesson:

The first step is to settle upon the most important areas of students’ lives and prepare questions dealing with them.

Prior to the lesson, the classroom should ideally be arranged for paired work. Best of all is to arrange the chairs in the room in two rows, facing each other, ready for the conversations to take place. Once the students are in the room, divide the class into two groups. Members of the first team should be given a number (e.g. 1-12), whilst the members of the second should be given a letter (e.g. A-L). Pair the students in the format A-1, B-2, C-3 and so on, then give each pair a strictly limited amount of time to talk about each topic – my [ClassTools countdown timer](#) is ideal in this way for setting up a series of countdown clocks that can run in sequence. Students have mini “speed” conversations with their foreign peers but when the time is up, all of the ‘numbered’ students should move around so that we end up with new pairings (A-2, B-3 and so on, all the way up to L-1). The process then repeats for as long as the teacher feels appropriate. It’s engaging because it’s student - centered, interactive, and attention - span friendly.

At the end of the exercise, each student should be asked who they felt they were best matched with. These results should be written on the board. Any person who has more than one student choosing them as their ‘top date’ should then be given the opportunity to hear from each one of these ‘suitors’ about why they are better matched than their rivals.

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