TEACH THIS
ESL / EFL RESOURCES

Activity Type

Reading, writing, listening and speaking activity

Language Focus

'Wh' questions and answers

Aim

To write and respond to questions about the teacher and course.

Preparation

None

Level

Elementary and above

Time

40 minutes

Introduction

This fun icebreaker game can be used to introduce yourself and the course to a new class of students. The game also helps you gain insight into your students' level of English.

Procedure

Before you begin the game, don't give the students any information about yourself or the course.

Tell the students to work alone and write some questions that they would like to ask you. The questions can be about anything they want to know about you or the course.

If you have a large class, ask each student to write three questions. If it is a small class, ask each student to write five.

While the students are writing, put the students' names on the board.

When everyone has prepared their questions, ask a student to come to the front of the class.

Tell the class that the student at the front of the class is going to take on the role of the teacher and attempt to answer another student's questions.

The student then tries to guess the answers to the questions asked by a classmate.

It's important not to reveal how the game works until the students have written all their questions as this may affect the questions the students write.

While the student is answering the questions, you keep score.

The student scores one point for a correct (or close enough) answer.

If the student gives an incorrect answer, write an 'X' next to their score. The classmate asking the question should also mark an 'X' next to the corresponding question.

The game continues with students taking it in turns to be the teacher and guess the answers to a classmate's questions until everyone has asked and answered one set of questions.

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

Afterwards, tell the students to ask you the questions marked 'X' that were left unanswered.