

Activity Type

Listening and speaking activity

Language 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

Elementary and above

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

Here is a fun mystery game to play on the first day of class. The game motivates students to ask 'Wh' questions and helps them learn interesting things about their classmates.

Procedure

Give each student a slip of paper.

Tell the students to write their name on the paper.

Then, ask the students to write down a secret about themselves.

The secret should be something that is unknown to anyone in the class, such as a hidden talent, a skill, accomplishment or a place they have visited.

After the students have written their secrets, collect in the slips. Read them and choose one slip that has an interesting secret on it.

Next, ask three students to stand up and go out of the classroom. One of the three students must be the person who wrote the secret you have chosen.

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

Bring the three students back in the classroom 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 sat at the front of the class.

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 who they think is telling the truth.

Award one point to the students who guess correctly.

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

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