

Activity Type

Speaking Activity: asking and answering questions from prompts, controlled and freer practice

Focus

Intercultural communication in academic contexts

Aim

To practice asking and answering questions about cultural differences and cross-cultural experiences in academic settings.

Preparation

Make one copy of the worksheet for each student.

Level

Upper-intermediate (B2)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

In this intercultural communication 'Find Someone Who' activity, students ask and answer questions about cultural differences and cross-cultural experiences in academic settings.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the worksheet.

Go through the items on the worksheet and elicit the yes/no questions the students need to ask in the activity, e.g. 'Have you talked with someone from a different country in class this term?'

Students then go around the class, asking their classmates the intercultural communication questions.

When a student finds someone who answers 'yes' to a question, they write down the person's name and ask a follow-up question to gain more information, noting down the answer in the last column.

If a classmate replies 'no', the student repeats the question with another person or asks a different question.

This process continues until the students have completed each item on the worksheet with a different name and answer, one classmate per item.

Afterwards, students give feedback to the class on the answers they collected, e.g. contrasting preferences or surprising responses.

If there are any interesting findings, encourage the students to discuss them in more detail.

Find someone who...	Name	More information
has talked with someone from a different country in class this term.		
prefers meetings to start exactly on time.		
feels that strong eye contact shows attention and respect.		
prefers people to say things directly, e.g. 'I disagree.'		
has experienced a small misunderstanding because of different communication styles.		
feels comfortable with silence while thinking in a conversation.		
prefers quick replies and finds long silences uncomfortable.		
has worked on a group task with classmates from different backgrounds.		
minds if meetings start a few minutes late.		
prefers people to soften their words, e.g. 'Maybe we could...'		
sometimes finds strong eye contact uncomfortable.		
likes detailed instructions before starting a task.		
can name a university situation where cultural differences might matter.		
has noticed a gesture or phrase being understood differently by different people.		
can share a greeting or polite phrase from another language.		
is happy to start with a brief and figure things out.		