

Activity Type

Speaking Activity:
ranking items, guided
discussion, controlled and
freer practice (pair work)

Focus

Asking for and giving
opinions

Comparing

Aim

To ask for and give
opinions on ways to
improve your English
skills.

Preparation

Make one copy of the
worksheet for each
student.

Level

Pre-intermediate (A2)

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

In this engaging giving opinions activity, students ask for and give opinions on ways to improve their English.

Procedure

Begin by asking the students what they do to improve their English. Write the students' ideas on the board.

Next, give each student a copy of the worksheet.

Working alone, students rank the 15 ways to improve their English (1 is the most useful and 15 is the least useful).

When the students have finished, divide them into pairs.

Students read out their ranking to their partner and their partner notes the ranking down in the second column of the worksheet.

When everyone has finished, review language for asking for and giving opinions, and comparing items. Write some example language on the board.

Examples:

What do you think? / What's your opinion? / Do you agree?

I think the most important thing is to...

In my opinion, it's better to ... than to...

I (don't) think it's useful to...

After that, the students ask for and give their opinions on the different methods. The students also compare the items and discuss the merits and drawbacks of each method.

The pairs then come up with a combined ranking.

Afterwards, have the students work with a new partner and compare their combined rankings, discussing any similarities or differences.

Finally, have a class feedback session. Have the students join with their original partner and report back to the class on their top 3 methods for improving their English. Discuss the findings with the class. It may also be interesting to look at the least useful method.

A. What's the best way to improve your English? Look at the ways for improving your English below and rank them 1 to 15. (1 is the most useful and 15 is the least useful).

| The best way to improve your English is to... | My Order (1-15) | My Partner's Order (1-15) | Combined Ranking |
|--|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| watch TV and films in English. | | | |
| speak English at home. | | | |
| talk to native English speakers. | | | |
| learn new English words and phrases daily. | | | |
| read aloud in English. | | | |
| record yourself speaking or reading in English. | | | |
| take English classes. | | | |
| change the language on your phone and computer to English. | | | |
| read English blogs, books and magazines every day. | | | |
| chat to people online in English. | | | |
| write a daily journal or diary in English. | | | |
| turn on English subtitles on your TV or when watching films. | | | |
| talk to yourself aloud in English. | | | |
| think in English. | | | |
| listen to English music. | | | |

B. In pairs, read your ranking to your partner and have them note the ranking down in the second column of the worksheet.

C. Now, ask for and give opinions on the different ways to improve your English. Compare the items and discuss the positives and negatives of each method. Then, come up with a combined ranking.