

Activity Type

Vocabulary and Speaking
Activity: ranking,
presenting, discussion,
freer and communicative
practice (group work)

Focus

Expressing preferences

Aim

To practice expressing
and defending
preferences by ranking
everyday options using
target phrases and
responding to follow-up
questions.

Preparation

Make one set of category
cards and one language
support card for each
group of three and cut as
indicated.

Level

Upper-intermediate (B2)

Time

40 minutes

Introduction

In this expressing preferences activity, students rank everyday options by category, present and justify their top choices with target phrases, and respond to questions or challenges from classmates.

Procedure

Divide the students into groups of three.

Give each group a set of category cards and a language support card.

Ask the students to shuffle the category cards and place them face down in a pile on the table.

Explain that the students are going to participate in a discussion activity where they rank items and express preferences using target phrases.

Students then take turns picking up a card from the pile, reading the category and items aloud, and placing the card face up on the table.

Starting with the student who drew the card, students present their top three choices in turn, using at least two target phrases from the language support card and giving short reasons.

After each turn, the other students ask one follow-up question or give a polite challenge.

If a student does not use a target phrase, the other students ask them to restate one sentence using a target phrase before moving on.

When all the students have had their turn, the group agrees on a shared top three list.

The student who drew the card writes the top three on the back of the card.

The next student then picks up a category card, and so on.

At the end of the activity, each group briefly presents and defends their shared top three list for one category, using at least two target phrases. After each presentation, the class votes on whether they agree with the list.



Housing

apartment, house, shared house, dorm, tiny home

Weekend plans

hike, stay home, meet friends, go to the cinema, visit a museum

Spending priorities

saving money, experiences, gadgets, donating, investing

Study methods

read a textbook, watch videos, do practice tests, study in a group, take notes

Exercise

running, swimming, yoga, going to the gym, team sports

Phone features

long battery life, great camera, big screen, low price, fast performance

Holidays

beach, city, mountains, countryside, staycation

Entertainment

action movies, comedies, dramas, documentaries, reality shows

Learning English

speaking practice, grammar exercises, watching movies, reading articles, using apps

Work styles

group work, individual work, flexible hours, fixed schedule, remote work

Pets

dog, cat, fish, bird, no pets

Commuting

bus, train, bike, car, walking

Language Support
Expressing preferences

I prefer X to Y because...
 I prefer to X rather than Y because...
 I'd rather X than Y because...
 I like X more than Y because...
 I'm quite into X / I'm not really into Y.
 I'm more of a(n) X person.
 I tend to ..., so I usually choose X.
 I'd choose/go for X over Y because...
 It depends on..., but usually I...

Follow-up questions

Why?
 What about cost/time/health/convenience?
 Would you still prefer it if...?
 How do you feel about...?
 Are you into...?

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