Activity Type

Speaking Activity: guided discussion (group work)

Focus

Past and present modal verbs of deduction

Aim

To discuss and answer questions about other students using past and present modal verbs of deduction.

Preparation

Make one copy of the worksheet for each group of three.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

40 minutes

Introduction

This modals of deduction activity helps students to practice past and present modal verbs of deduction.

Procedure

Divide the students into groups of three. If you have a large class, groups of four or five are also possible.

Give each group a copy of the worksheet.

Explain that the students are going to discuss and answer questions about their classmates using past and present modal verbs of deduction.

Demonstrate the activity by reading the first question to the class, i.e. 'You hear a student telling a joke. Who is it?'

Elicit possible answers to the question using past and present modal verbs of deduction. Have the students justify their answers.

Examples:

It could be Jin as he is good at telling jokes.
It can't be me because I can't remember jokes.
It might be Ayumi because she tells jokes sometimes.

The groups then discuss each question in turn on the worksheet and base their answers on what they know about their classmates.

Each group then comes to a consensus and writes down the name of one student.

When everyone has finished, go through each question and elicit an answer from each group along with a justification.

Ask the named people if they agree that it could be or could have been them and ask if the justification is valid.

If yes, the groups that named the person score one point.

The group with the most points at the end is the winner.

Note: The discussion points in this activity focus on positive or neutral traits and habits. This activity is not designed to single students out merely focus on the language. If you have sensitive students, please be mindful about using this resource.

Discuss and answer the questions about your classmates using past and present modal verbs of deduction (i.e. *must*, *could*, *might*, *may*, and *can't*). Base your answers on what you know about the other students in the class.

Questions	Name
1. You hear a student telling a joke. Who is it?	
2. You hear someone singing outside the classroom door. Who is it?	
3. You see a classmate sharing a snack. Who is it?	
4. You see a classmate helping another student with their work. Who is it?	
5. A student arrives to class first. Who is it?	
6. You see a classmate taking a selfie. Who is it?	
7. There is a student talking with their friend. Who is it?	
8. You see a classmate carrying a football. Who is it?	
9. There is a student listening to music. Who is it?	
10. You see a classmate playing a game on their phone. Who is it?	
11. There is a classmate doing a crossword. Who is it?	
12. You see a student putting up their hand to answer a question. Who is it?	
13. You see a beautiful drawing on a student's desk. Who drew it?	
14. You see a classmate carrying a fashionable bag. Who is it?	