

Dating Agency – a speaking activity

Contributor's Notes

Here's an ESOL speaking/writing activity that could be used with any level from E2 to E3, but which is easily adaptable for L1/L2. As well as the printable cards (page 2 - you'll need to print off several copies), you need to find six pictures of men and six separate pictures of women (e.g. from magazines).

Here's what you do then:

- 1) Set the scene by eliciting what exactly a 'Dating Agency' is.
- 2) Explain the scenario - you all work for a dating agency, and six men and six women have come in to find a partner. Unfortunately, they left before they had time to fill in their profile forms! Split the class into two teams, and give one the pictures of men and the other the pictures of women. Hand out the profile form; using their imagination, teams fill in the forms for each person. At this point, it's essential that teams don't show their pictures to the other team!
- 3) Once this has been done, teams take it in turns to present one of their 'clients' to the other team. Once they have listened to the description, the other team suggests a suitable partner from one of their clients, explaining why.
- 4) The two pictures are revealed - sometimes students agree they have made a good match, other times there is some hilarity! Continue until all partners have been matched up.
- 5) Round off the activity by asking whether the matches are good, and whether any pairings can be changed. As a follow-up writing activity, ask students to take one pair and imagine it is now six months later. Are the couple still together? Are they going to get married, or did it all go horribly wrong after the first date?!

If dating is an unsuitable scenario for your group, then I have found the following scenarios suitable - students are pairing up study buddies/students are pairing up roommates for an English summer course.

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Main Curriculum Links

Literacy

Sc/E2.3 express clearly statements of fact and short accounts and descriptions
Sc/E3.4 express clearly statements of fact and give short explanations, accounts and descriptions

ESOL

Sc/E2.3d give an explanation
Sc/E2.3f give a short description
Sc/E3.4d give an explanation
Sc/E3.4f give a short description and make comparisons

Name:

Job:

Hobbies:

Likes:

Hates:

Frightened of:

Name:

Job:

Hobbies:

Likes:

Hates:

Frightened of:

Name:

Job:

Hobbies:

Likes:

Hates:

Frightened of: