Warm-Up Activities

Presented by:
Julie Clements
Bow Valley College
Objective

• Learn short fun activities for learning English
  – Can be adapted for various levels and group sizes.
  – Will engage and encourage English language learners to interact and communicate.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:00</td>
<td>Welcome/Introductions/Agenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:15</td>
<td>Ice Breakers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Talk About…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Two Truths and Lie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• How Well Do You Know the Teacher?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 - 7:15</td>
<td>BREAK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:15</td>
<td>Warm-Ups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Running Dictation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Picture That!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Picture Differences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 20 Questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:10</td>
<td>Concluding Thoughts and Additional Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:20</td>
<td>Questions and evaluation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Let’s Break the Ice…

Ice breakers in the wild
Talk About...

• You have two minutes...introduce yourself to your partner.
• Now...introduce your partner to the group by sharing one interesting fact they told you.
• SWITCH!

Variations
Change the topic by giving a question
  – What did you do on the weekend?
  – What will you do on the weekend?
  – Freestyle
How well do you know the teacher?

- Ask students to write down 5 questions they would like to ask you.
- Ask one student to come to the front.
- This student will now play the role of you and will guess the answer to five of the students’ questions.
- Give a "point" to the student for each correct answer and an 'x' for an incorrect one.
- Each student takes turns guessing until each student has answered 5 questions.
- Re-ask questions which were answered incorrectly to gain more information about you.
- Once every student has had a chance to be the teacher, answer the questions about you which were left answered incorrectly.

Two Truths and a Lie

Two of these statements are true, one is false. Which is which?

A. I’m afraid of horses.
B. I love sushi.
C. I have broken my arm right arm twice.
Why Do a Warm-up?

• To focus students
• Bring energy to the beginning of each class
• To “break the ice” with a new class of students
• To fill a small block of time when a lesson runs shorter than you planned
• To replace a lesson that students aren’t understanding or are bored with

(https://www.englishclub.com/teach-english/teacher-warmups.htm)
What Makes a Good Warm-up?

• Short (10 – 15 minutes)
• Nothing new or difficult
• Reviews a previous lessons or skill
• Sets the stage for an upcoming lesson
• Fun, interactive, communicative
• Gets students moving!
Running Dictation

• Paired activity: one runner, one writer
• Place a short text on one side of the room (e.g. sentence, poem, song lyrics)
• The runner reads the text then runs back to their partner and shares
• Student write what their partner tells them
• The first team to correctly transcribe the text is the winner!
• Note: The runner may not touch the pencil!

Variation = Hide vocabulary words from a text or a listening exercise in the room to do the same.
Picture Differences

- Another paired activity
- Students receive two similar pictures that have small differences
- Students must communicate to discover what the differences are
- No peeking!
Picture That!

• Again...pair students
• One speaker, one drawer
• Speaker receives a picture which they must carefully describe to their partner
• Partner draws what is described
• At the end, compare pictures to judge success!
• Level of difficulty can be varied
20 Questions

• Give each student a picture cut out from a magazine
• Students ask each other yes/no questions to gather information and try to guess each other’s pictures
• Partners or group members may ask up to 20 yes/no questions
Practice, apply and reflect...

- What warm-ups are you excited to try?
- How will they work in your class?
- Do you have any warm-ups to share?
Additional Resources

• Books
  – Talk-a-tivities
  – Pair Work 1, 2
  – Play Games with English 1, 2 and 3
  – Azar Fun with Grammar

http://www.azargrammar.com/materials/FWG_TOC.html
Additional Web Resources

- http://bogglesworldesl.com/adultesl1.htm
- http://busyteacher.org/teaching_ideas_and_techniques/warmers/
- http://www.eslcafe.com/idea/index.cgi?Speaking:
Closing Remarks & Evaluation