



Language Café Helpsheet 2

Activities for a Language Café

Here are a few ideas for things to do:

DISCUSSION STARTERS

- Take it in turns to select an item from the media and present it to the rest of the group
- Compare your likes and dislikes, e.g. I really hate it when...
- Talk about your holidays/job/hobbies etc.
- Discuss what you would do if you won the lottery
- Think of 10 items that mean a lot to you and describe them
- What 8 records would you take on a desert island with you and why?
- Make word maps. Write one word and then try to find as many related words and expressions as possible.
- Make up a quiz on an agreed topic

GAMES

- Charades – mime an activity/word/film/book etc
- Taboo (have picture cards, pick a card, try to explain the picture without using any proper nouns)
- Memory games – place a collection of items on a tray, spend 5 minutes naming the items and trying to remember them. Cover the tray and see who can remember the most items.
- Pictionary (pull a card with a word on it and draw a picture to help the others guess what the word is)
- Word association game – one person chooses a word, the next has to find a word that is associated with it and so on
- Scrabble (sets are available for different languages)
- Who's who? Someone thinks of a famous person and the rest have to ask questions to find out who it is (these can only be answered yes/no)
- Broken phone – whisper a sentence or a short story to your neighbour. This is continued around the group and the last person tells the sentence or story out loud so that everyone sees how it compares to the original.
- "I am going on a picnic/trip/boat and I am going to bring..." Start with items beginning with 'a' and each person adds an item and tries to remember every preceding item until you reach the end of the alphabet.
- 20 questions – think of something. Tell everyone whether it is animal, vegetable or mineral. They then have 20 questions to find out what it is.



- “Am I telling the truth?” Each person has a small item with him/her and tells a short story about it. The others have to guess if the story is true or not.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

- Invite a guest speaker to talk about his/her work, interests, or travels
- Bring in some music, listen and talk about it or sing along karaoke style!
- Listen to songs. Try writing out the lyrics or have written lyrics with gaps and try to fill in the gaps.
- Take it in turns to prepare a talk on something or simply describe what you have been doing
- Take it in turns to talk about your travels
- Go to the cinema together and discuss the film afterwards
- Choose a book to read and discuss it in the café
- Each person can bring a poem or play and you can read aloud from it and/or discuss it
- Have a food/wine tasting evening
- Take it in turns to cook an international dish and introduce it to the rest of the group (try doing this in the relevant language)