

## Man and Wife

### by Alex Case

**Brief Description** Students are tested on the small details of each other's lives. It's a great activity to practice a wide range of question forms and for GTKY (getting to know you). It is based on the TV game show 'Mr and Mrs' in which couples play against each other to prove which couple knows each other the best. In the show one of the two has to answer questions about the other. While the questions are asked the partner who is not being questioned cannot hear what is being said. Questions often relate to domestic habits, preferences etc.

**Materials and preparation** Prepare a few difficult questions such as 'Does your partner wear pyjamas?' 1 felt tip pen and 1 piece of paper per student. 2 slips of paper per student (optional)

**Language** Question formation. Variety of tenses depending on questions used, but mainly Present Simple.

**Time** 20-50 minutes

#### **Procedure**

- Write 'Man and Wife' on the board and explain how the game works- that one person made to answer questions about their partner without their partner listening.
- The 'quiz master' then checks the answers with the partner who was the subject of the questioning, to see how well 'man and wife' know each other. They then score points for any questions they answered correctly.
- Brainstorm possible questions into a table on the board, with at least one question for each question word. E.g. 'How often does your partner clean his/ her teeth?' How . . . ? What . . . ? When . . . ?
- Put students in pairs. Divide each pair into A's and B's (or husbands and wives, for the amusement value).
- Ask a difficult question from the board to all the A's, e.g. 'What colour car does your partner have?' Make sure each person answers, even if it's a complete guess. Check with all the B's if the answer was correct.
- Tell students they are going to play 'Man and Wife', but first they have just 7 minutes to find out everything about their partner.
- Monitor students for correct question forms.
- Stop the pairs and divide them into A's and B's. Put all the A's on one side of the room and all the B's on the other, to avoid cheating.
- Ask one of the questions you have prepared. Give the paper and felt tips to the A's and tell them to write down their own answer (not their partner's) on the paper in front of them. Now ask the B's one at a time what they think their partners have answered. As each B makes their prediction, get their partner to show their real answers to the class. Score on the board for each correct answer.
- Give out pens and paper to the B's and ask them to write down their answer for the next question.
- Repeat a few times.

**Extension** Allow students to prepare two questions each to continue the game.

**Feedback**

- Round of applause for the winning team.
- Go through errors in question formation from pairwork and extension stages as class.