

SEX SELLS

A Discussion Class for Intermediate students

by Lindsay Clandfield

Level: Intermediate

Aim: Students discuss issues relating to sex in society. The emphasis is on fluency.

Materials: Make one copy of the discussion questions for every four to five students in the class. Cut up the worksheet into individual questions and put them in an envelope.

Note: *The subject matter of this discussion class is quite controversial. Many teachers and students might feel uncomfortable discussing some of these issues, which are considered taboo in many classrooms. Teachers are advised to only use these questions if they know their class well and that both class and teacher are comfortable with them. Be sensitive to the age and cultural background of your students before using this material. The questions have been separated so that teachers may leave out ones that they think are too controversial.*

Stage One: Ask students to sit in pairs so that A can see the board and B can't. Write the quotations below on the board. Ask A to dictate the quotations to B. When A finishes, the two check the dictated sentences and must guess what the blank is in each sentence. Tell them that the missing word is the same for each sentence. After they get/you tell them the answer (it is sex) ask them what they think of the quotes. Are they true? Funny? Explain that today's class will be a discussion about sex in society. Pre-teach the following words: brothel, consensual, birth control pill and any others that you think your students might have trouble understanding.

- I never miss a chance to have ____ or appear on television. Gore Vidal
- I know nothing about ____ because I was always married. Zsa Zsa Gabor
- ____ alleviates tension. Love causes it. Woody Allen
- ____ is an emotion in motion. Mae West
- The big difference between ____ for money and ____ for free is that ____ for money usually costs a lot less. Brendon Behan
- ____ appeal is 50% what you've got and 50% what people think you've got. Sophie Loren

Stage Two: Divide the class into groups of four. Give each group an envelope with the questions inside. Explain the rules. Each student takes turns taking out a question from the envelope and asking it to the group. The group discuss and, where possible, try to agree on an answer. Then it is the next student's turn.

Stage Three: While students are doing the activity, monitor and help where needed. Make notes of language that students requested to do the task, and any mistakes that you hear.

Stage Four: Bring all the students back to a whole class formation and do some feedback. What were the most controversial points? If you have time, correct and review new language that came up in the activity.

Option for small classes: These questions can be easily used with smaller classes (students do the activity in pairs) or with a one to one class (have the student pick questions at random and discuss them with the teacher).

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A woman or man never chooses to be a prostitute. Prostitutes are always manipulated or forced into their profession. Agree or disagree?



Brothels should be legal. It is safer for prostitutes to work in a brothel than on the street. Agree or disagree?



What should the legal age be to buy pornographic material (videos or magazines)?



What should the legal age be to have consensual sex?



What should the legal age be to have consensual gay sex?



If you want to be a pop star, especially a woman pop star, it doesn't matter if you can sing or play an instrument. The only thing that is important is showing your body and being a sexual object. Agree or disagree?



Should 'soft' pornographic films be allowed on television?



Should 'hard' pornographic videos be sold in normal video shops?



Should the covers of adult pornographic magazines be visible in shops and on newsstands?



How relevant is a public figure's sex life? Should it remain private or be public?



If a famous singer or politician is gay, should he or she tell the public that he or she is homosexual?



You find a Penthouse magazine in your 13 old son's bedroom. What would you do?



Should sexual lifestyle drugs, like Viagra, be paid for by a public healthcare system?



Which is more acceptable: a young man in a sexual relationship with a much older woman, or a young woman in a sexual relationship with a much older man?



Is it acceptable to show a naked woman in an advertisement? Is it acceptable to show a naked man?



Men want sex more than women. Agree or disagree?



Men or women who have cosmetic surgery only do it to become more sexually desirable.



Should condoms be available in schools? Should the birth control pill be available in schools?



Today's society is obsessed with sex. Agree or disagree?