

Work and workplaces

Aims: Exchanging personal information
Explore definitions of jobs
Practise the basic questions “What do you do?” and “Where do you work?”

Level: Elementary

Resources: Question cards (Worksheet 1)
Job and definition cards (Worksheet 2 & 3)
Workplaces cue cards (Worksheet 4)
Sellotape™, sticky tape or Blu-tack™

Time: 40 mins + (depending on class size)

Procedure:

Pre - class

Cut up question cards (Worksheet 1), job cards (Worksheet 2 & 3) and workplaces cue cards (Worksheet 4). Stick workplace cue cards (Worksheet 4) on the classroom walls. Allow some space between cards so Ss can stand in front of them. Prepare an extra cue card (i.e. write your school name on it).

Warm-up (7mins)

1. Hand out the questions (Worksheet 1) to Ss. Ss ask and answer questions in pairs or small groups. Allow 5 minutes for this task. Students feed back their partner's answers to the whole class.

Presentation (3mins)

1. Ask Ss which questions relate to jobs. (“What do you do?” and “Where do you work?”)
2. Write the word ‘jobs’ on the board. Write the 2 questions on the board and add a third question: “What do you do, exactly?”

Main activity (20mins)

1. Give one job card (the blue one) to each S. Keep the TEACHER card and its definition.
2. Spread the definitions (i.e. the red ones) out - either on the desks or on the classroom floor.
3. Ask the Ss to match their job with its definition.
4. Once Ss have completed this task, tell them to look at the workplace cue cards on the walls.
5. Choose a student and say “You’re a/an [job card S is holding]. Where do you work?” Tell them to stand in front of the workplace they chose. Tell Ss to find one possible workplace.

6. Tell Ss to look at the questions on the board and practise them with the S standing closest to them. NB: demonstrate the activity by standing in front of the school name and choose a student to follow the dialogue below:

Student: "What do you do?"
Teacher: "I'm a teacher."
Student: "What do you do, exactly?"
Teacher: (reads definition card) "I teach English and help students".
Student: "Where do you work?"
Teacher: (points to cue card on wall) "I work at...."

7. Ss practise with Ss opposite. Then, they practise among themselves. Monitor language and sentence structure.

Summary (10 mins)

1. Play a kind of "memory game".
 - Ss make a circle. Each S picks up one definition card (i.e. red one).
 - S1 asks "what do you do?" to S2. S2 reads their card. S1 says "So you are a/an..."
 - If S1's guess is right, S1 has the card. If S1's guess is wrong, S2 puts the card down.
 - Next, S2 asks "what do you do?" to S3, and so on. At the end, the S who has more cards is the winner.

Suggestion:

This game may also be played at a faster pace. Ask Ss to make a circle. Stand in the middle. Hold the definition cards (i.e. red ones). S2 picks up a card. S1 forms the usual question "what do you do?" and S2 read the card. If S1's guess is right, S1 has the card; if it's wrong, s/he is out of the circle. The S who remains in the circle until the end of the game is the winner.