

Summer Stories

A speaking class by Lindsay Clandfield

Level: Intermediate and higher

Aim: Students prepare and tell each other an anecdote relating to the summer.

Stage one:

Write the word SUMMER on the board. Tell the students to write six words that they associate with summer on their piece of paper. While they are doing this, do the same yourself.

When you (and the students) have finished, write your words on the board. Invite the students to ask you why you wrote certain words. Explain. Once you've done this ask the students to do the same with their words, but with a partner. Allow a few minutes for them to do this. Circulate and monitor but do not correct any language at this point.

Stage two:

Explain that in this class the students are going to prepare a short presentation in small groups about an aspect of summer. Distribute the worksheet and tell the students to choose one area that they would like to talk about. Once they have chosen, tell them to prepare their presentation using the questions to help them.

Stage three:

Put the students into groups of three. Each student must take in turns to talk about their subject for at least two minutes. The other two must be the listeners. Explain that the listeners should:

- listen carefully to the speaker
- look at the speaker and nod if they understand
- ask a question if they don't understand
- help the speaker by asking other questions or making comments if the speaker can't speak for the whole two minutes

Students take turns to make their presentations to others in their groups. During this time, circulate and make notes of interesting language use or errors that you hear. Try to record a good sample of different kinds of errors (especially persistent ones).

Stage four:

Do some whole class feedback on what the groups talked about. When you have heard from all the groups go through some of the errors or interesting (good) examples of language you heard during stage three. Ask students to try and correct themselves.

Stage five (optional):

If you have time, ask students to form new groups. They should repeat the activity, but this time: 1) they should try and make their presentation better (i.e. less errors) and 2) they should try and do their presentation a little quicker (e.g. for example, a minute)

Summer Stories - worksheet

Choose one of the following topics and prepare to talk about it with your group. Use the questions to help you:

A summer sport or hobby

Where do you play it?
Who do you play with?
How often do you play it?
When do you play it?
How long have you played it?
Are you good at it?

Summers as a child

Did you enjoy the summer when you were a child?
Were the summers usually all the same or did you do different things each year?
Where did you go?
What did you do?
Is there a special place that you remember?
Did you have any friends that you only saw during the summer? Who were they?

Summers in your country

What is the weather usually like in summer?
When do most people have their summer holiday?
Where do people go?
Do tourists visit your country in the summer? Where do they go?
Are there any important summer festivals? Where are they? What happens?
Do you enjoy summers in your country?

A summer romance

What was his/her name?
Where was he/she from?
How old were you?
Where were you?
How did you meet?
What happened at the end of the summer?

A summer dish

What is it called?
What are the ingredients?
How do you make it?
When is the best time to eat or drink it?
What do eat or drink it with?
How did you learn about this dish?