

Swap Shop: *Speaking and Interaction in English*
(Dan Frost, IUT2, Grenoble : frost@iut2.upmf-grenoble.fr)

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This swap shop was the opportunity to trade ideas that work in class. Paper copies of all the activities were distributed, and most are available on the APLIUT website on the page entitled "aide à l'enseignement" : http://www.apliut.com/pages/aideenseignement/aide_enseignement.html.

1. Superheroes (Gaëlle Bertrand)

The aim is for students to present a superhero. The worksheet runs over 2 lessons. First, give a worksheet on the movie *Batman Begins* followed by a reading comprehension on an article taken from [New Scientist](#). Then students present their own imaginary superhero in pairs and must assess themselves at the end.

2. Hand Analysis (Dan Frost) 1h

This activity is very good for describing students' personalities, especially when writing CVs and preparing for interviews.

- explain what "hand analysis" is and give each student the same table but a different text
- they each read their text (part of hand analysis) and fill in the section that matches it on their table
- then each student must prepare a summary (notes) on their text so as to explain it to all the other students in the class
- then students go from one student to the next, giving their explanation and writing down other students' explanation (remove Via Lasciva or Girdle of Venus if you need to reduce the number of worksheets).
- Then students give you feedback and tell the class if their hand lines are true or not!

3. What kind of a person are you? (Cathie-Anne Schneider & Michelle Lefèvre)

70 question tests on your personality (give vocab ahead!)

- make your students take the test on www.humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/JTypes2.asp and click on *Score it*. Then they write down their 4 letter profile.
 - then they go on www.personalitypage.com/portraits.html to read their profiles.
 - put the same profiles together and ask them to discuss and compare them (they don't always agree of course!)
 - follow-up: how people see you as a friend / a parent / a partner, etc.
 - written assessment: describe your profile and explain why it corresponds to you or not.
- ++ This is really good to prepare job interviews and learn to talk about yourself.

It is a little bit similar to *English Vocabulary in Use* (Chinese Astrology). Other possible test: the BELBIN test (teamwork) and A Political Spectrum (political ideas).

4. Presentation Skills Workshop (Anne-Laure Finkel)

(a two-hour lesson for the end of the year, right before their final presentations)

- 1) Review former presentations. Students should point out what was effective and what was not. Make a list.

- 2) Check the pronunciation of some key words students always get wrong. (you should be able to make your own list!)
 - 3) Show 2 slides from *Making Presentations*, pp 39, 41, 52, Essential Managers, Dorling Kindersley: personal appearance, avoiding bad habits, eye contact
 - 4) Presenting: Unit 12 Giving a formal presentation, *Business Result Intermediate*, pp 74-75, Oxford University Press (any other listening on presentations language will do).
 - 5) Put students in groups of 4. In pairs, they are going to give mini-presentations (2 minutes max) on given subjects. Put them into the 4 corners of the room. One pair speaks and the other one takes notes on presentation skills, thanks to an assessment sheet (print 4 per group then cut them in half). The idea is not for students to give a grade to each other, but to explain what could be improved regarding their body language, eye contact, etc. They should not hesitate to interrupt the speaking pair, it has to be quite interactive. Then they swap roles. Each pair should make 2 presentations. They both prepare at the same time and then listen to each other.
 - 6) Review what has been done, how students have improved or become aware of their mistakes.
- ++ The books where the slides and audio exercises are from can easily be replaced by other business English textbooks.

5. Community Centre (Alison Leonard / Anne-Isabelle Llanta)

Role play to create a community centre (meeting, agenda...). Can be replaced by a student union, etc.

6. Loto des verbes irréguliers (Brigitte Bouchot) 2h

- Give a list to revise at the beginning of the year (they have a month to revise it)
- Practice in class
- Print lotto cards and chips on thick paper
- How to play: each student gets a different card. You pull a word (eg brought) and the student who has it needs to say "bring, brought, brought, apporter". If he can't say all of them the chip is put back into the box.

++ Apparently, they never want to stop until all the cards have been completed!

7. Telephoning (Véronique Rouanet) (email her for other examples of situations)

- Pairwork with a receptionist (the English assistant).
- *Semester 1*: 7 students are in the teacher's office. One after the other, they make a phone call to the English assistant who is in the office next door. She leaves a message to the student. No mark.
- *Semester 2*: opposite situation. The assistant calls the student. She is looking for a flat to rent. The student works for a real estate agent, "Agence Nice Riviera" for example. He makes an appointment and takes notes on a sheet. If the sheet is reusable as it is, they get 10/10. Then the assistant comes in and tells the student that he did a good job but that progress remains...

++ can be adapted to advanced students.

8. Description Activity (Marion Warzagier)

Describe a shape to students and they draw it. Then they describe one to their partners, who are not allowed to ask questions. The result is usually quite strange! Finally, they describe one with questions.

9. The Happiness Graph (Roy Thomas)

Thanks to a slide, describe a graph showing how happy you have been over the last 7 days. Finish it with ultimate happiness as you are teaching them. Then students produce their own graph and describe it. They should focus on *trends*, not numbers. Great and funny for graph vocabulary.

10. Oral Presentations (Sandrine Prudhomme)

Reading comprehension on a ski resort/shopping mall in Spain. Students invent their own. They vote for the most interesting one.

11. Process Presentations (Emmanuelle André)

- Study *An Inconvenient Truth* : focus on the scientific context
- « Exposé des 3 p'tits chats »: simple approach to making an effective presentation (cf worksheet). During the research part, students only write key words and verbs, not more.
- Then they describe what they have chosen to present (a process for example) using repetition / contrast / domino effect. Eg. The sun heats the panel. The panel transforms the sun into electricity. Electricity is....

12. Inventions (Cathie-Anne Schneider)

Invent a funny technological object but present it very seriously Eg: memory blender. Mentions pros and cons.