

Speaking strings

Objective: getting students to speak (even the shy ones)

Preparation: Very little

Material: one piece of string per group. The pieces of string should all be the same length, and quite long (4-5 metres long).

Description:

Divide the class into groups of 4 or 5

First, demonstrate the activity

Then, give each group their piece of string.

Rules:

- Each person in the group takes turns to be the 'string winder', or the 'string police'. The string police goes to another group to make sure there's no cheating.
- The teacher says the topic (for example, talk about a movie or a book, a company or a celebrity, how to cook a dish...). The first string winder talks about the topic while winding the string (not too tight!) around their finger. If they are not speaking they can't wind; the job of the string police is to say 'stop!' if the winder isn't speaking but is still winding.
- If the winder can't think of anything to say their team can give them ideas and suggestions.
- The first winder to finish winding their string gets 5 points for their team, the second gets 4 points etc. When all the winders have finished the string goes to the next winder, string police change and we have another round with a new topic.