



Access English Centre
Immigrant Centre Manitoba
Multi-level: Warm-up Activity
Conversation Chain
15 minutes



Objective/Goal:

Gives participants the opportunity to practice Wh- words or vocabulary.

Materials:

Participants need:

- none

Facilitator needs:

- whiteboard and whiteboard markers
- 1 coin (any)
- Optional: chain (visual aid)
- *For Extension Activity C:
Optional: computer (with internet access)
 - projector
 - screen

Procedure:

Before the activity:

1) **Write** the following prompts:

Question-answer
Question-answer
Question-answer, etc.

Activity Instructions:

2) **Explain** to the participants that they will take turns asking each other questions and make appropriate responses.

3) **Go over** the format.

Optional: Display the chain to show the activity is much like a chain. (ex. question followed by an answer, etc.)

4) **Divide** the whole class into 2 teams. Have each team line up facing each other. (They can sit down-facing each other.) The teams can come up with their team names.



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- 5) **Toss** a coin in the air. **Ask** the first person from each line whether it is “heads” or “tails”. The team who **guesses** correctly goes first.
- 6) **Demonstrate.**
- Ex. Team 1/Person 1: What is your name?
Team 2/ Person 1: My name is Filmon.
Team 1/ Person 2: Who is beside Filmon?
Team 2/Person 2: I'm beside Filmon.
Team 1/Person 3: Who are you?
Team 2/ Person 3: My name is Natalie.
Team 1/ Person 4: What is your surname?
Team 2/Person 4: My surname is Singh.
Team 1/ Person 5: Do you know Natalie Singh?
Team 2/Person 6: Yes, she's my classmate.
Team 1/Person 6: How many classmates, do you have?
etc.
- 7) The chain **continues** until someone “breaks” the chain. If the person cannot come up with a corresponding question or response to continue the chain. The opposing team -“WINS”.
- 8) Points can be **awarded** to teams.

Extension Activities:

- A.** For **beginner** levels of English, have students say simple words that belong in the category:
Ex. **Colours-**
Team 1/Person 1: Red
Team 2/ Person 1: Orange
Team 1/ Person 2: Yellow
Team 2/Person 2: Green
Team 1/Person 3: Blue
Team 2/ Person 3: Purple
Team 1/ Person 4: White etc.
- If you need to use colour flashcards to help the participants, please go to:
<http://pdf.mrprintables.com/mrpf10-color-a4.pdf>
- B.** For **higher levels** of English, have students say:
a. homonyms(words that sound the same)
b. synonyms(words that have the same meaning)



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c. antonyms(words that have opposite meaning)

C. Please see the websites for additional info or to share and display to the participants:

1. <http://grammar.yourdictionary.com/style-and-usage/Antonyms-Synonyms-Homonyms.html>
2. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V_lb28CMVl0
Synonyms, Antonyms & Homonyms Song By Charles H. Johnson(3:40)

D. For **intermediate levels**, practice verb tenses –

Ex. : present continuous verbs

Team 1/Person 1: I am sitting down.

Team 2/ Person 1: I am looking at you.

Team 1/ Person 2: I'm watching you.

Team 2/Person 2: I'm speaking to you.

Team 1/Person 3: We are all sitting down.

Team 2/ Person 3: I am listening to you.

Team 1/ Person 4: You are always complaining. etc.

Please see the following websites for research on present continuous verbs:

1. http://www.edufind.com/english/grammar/present_continuous.php
2. http://www.englishclub.com/grammar/verb-tenses_present-continuous_sp.htm

E. For **advanced levels** of English, have participants use higher-order questions using words like: describe, tell me about..., compare, can you explain, etc. (ex. :Bloom's Taxonomy)

Please see the following websites for research on Bloom's Taxonomy:

1. http://ylapp.edublogs.org/files/2009/11/hots_questions.pdf
2. <http://teachingcenter.wustl.edu/asking-questions-improve-learning>