



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



Objective/Goal:

This warm-up activity gives participants the opportunity to become familiar with that can be done at the start of each conversation class.

Materials:

Participants need:

- "Talking Stick"

Facilitator needs:

- whiteboard and whiteboard markers

- 1 coin (any)

Optional: chain (visual aid)

- *For Extension Activity E:

Optional: computer (with internet access)

- projector

- screen

Procedure:

Before class:

- 1) **Create** a "Talking Stick" which can be anything that is easy to pass around between participants. Ex. Brightly-coloured plastic or wooden baton decorated with sequins, feathers, or stickers. Another option could be a smooth stone or any unique item that can easily be handled between participants.
- 2) Have the class **seated** in a round circle formation.

Introduce the Activity : (10 minutes)

- 3) **Write** a topic (any topic/subject) on the whiteboard:
Ex. "How was your day? or
Today's news or How are you feeling today?
or What did you do today?, What is your favourite food? etc."
- 4) **Explain** to the participants that they will talk about the topic listed on the whiteboard (1 minute) when they receive the "Talking Stick". Once the participant is finished speaking, he or she passes the "Talking stick" to the next person beside him/her until everyone has had his/her turn.
- 5) **Demonstrate** the activity.



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



Activity Instructions:

- 6) **Explain** to the participants that they will take turns asking each other questions and make appropriate responses.
- 7) **Go over** the format.
Optional: **Display** the chain to show the activity is much like a chain.(ex. question followed by an answer, etc.)
- 8) **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.
- 9) **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.
- 10) **Demonstrate**.

Extension Activities:

- A. A timer could be used to time each participant. Instead of 1 minute talk have the participants speak for 2-3 minutes long.
- B. Participants can speak of any topic of their choice.(Ideal for high English-level speakers)
- C. Instead of a "Talking Stick" , a soft ball or a football can be tossed around the participants. The participant who catches the football will speak. Then he or she will pass the soft ball onto his/her peer.
- D. This activity can be done at the beginning of each class as a routine. Topics can range from subject matter of previous activity plans.(good review)
- E. *Please see the websites for additional info or to share and display to the participants:
Ex. <http://www.conversationstarters.com/101.htm>
Ex. <http://www.wikihow.com/Come-Up-with-Good-Conversation-Topics>