



Access English Centre
Immigrant Centre Manitoba
Multi-level: Warm-up Activity
Minute Talk
15 minutes



Objective/Goal:

Gives participants the opportunity to practice fluency.

Materials:

Participants need:

- Attachment #1: talk strips (enough strips for every participant)
- bag or box to place strips in

Facilitator needs:

- whiteboard
- whiteboard markers
- timer

For Extension Activity B:

- Optional:
- computer (with internet access)
 - projector
 - screen

Procedure:

Before the Activity:

- 1) **Pre-cut** the attachment #1 and place into a bag or box.

Activity Instructions:

- 2) **Write** the following prompt:
Minute Talk
- 3) **Explain** to the participants that they will each take a turn to talk about a topic for 1 full minute.
- 4) **Explain** to each participant that he/she will take a "Talk About..." strip (Attachment #1) from the bag/box and start talking.
- 5) **Demonstrate**.
- 6) **Set** timer.

Ex. "April Fool's Day is on April 1st. It is a special day when some people like to play tricks on their friends or family. Tricks are pranks or activities that can be very clever. The tricks can be funny and sometimes can be very mean. The trickster then usually says, "April Fool" to the victim. It began in 1582 when Pope Gregory XIII ordered a new calendar: the Gregorian calendar to replace the old calendar: Julian calendar. Originally, New Years Day



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was celebrated on April 1. Pope Gregory moved the date to January 1. That year, France adopted the new calendar and shifted New Year's day to January 1, but many people were confused by the date. They celebrated it on April 1. Other people started making make fun of these traditionalists, sending them on "fool's errands" or trying to trick them. Eventually, the practice spread throughout Europe.

I have never played an April Fool's Day joke on anyone, yet. There is a show called "Punk'd". It is hosted by an actor named Ashton Kutcher where he plays practical jokes on celebrities. Some jokes are quite elaborate and others are quite funny. There is another show called "Betty White's Off Their Rockers" which is a show where older people(older actors) play pranks on ordinary people(non-actors).

7. **Pass** the bag/box around to each person, he/she will pick a "Talk About..." strip from the bag or box(without looking).
8. **Time** each person for 1 minute.
9. Each speaker can **stand** in front of the class or stay seated at his/her chair.
10. After each speech, **give** encouragement, "Great Job!", "Excellent!", etc....
11. **Encourage** the participants to give positive feedback, as well.

Extension Activity:

- A.** If there is extra time, have the whole group guess the topic of each participant's minute speech. This can be done after each person talks or after everyone has finished speaking. The Talk slips are collected by the facilitator after each person is finished speaking.
- B.** Please see the websites for additional info or to share and display to the participants:
 1. Conversation topics:
http://www.eslgold.com/easy_topics.html
 2. <http://www.calendar-updates.com/info/holidays/canada/aprilfools.aspx>
 3. <http://www.infoplease.com/spot/aprilfools1.html>
 4. <http://wistar.com/holidays/aprilfool.htm>
 5. [April Fools' Day: Origin and History | Infoplease.com
http://www.infoplease.com/spot/aprilfools1.html#ixzz2MawcFy6Z](http://www.infoplease.com/spot/aprilfools1.html#ixzz2MawcFy6Z)

ATTACHMENT #1: MINUTE TALK

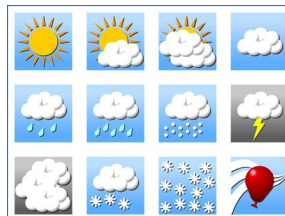
TALK ABOUT....

YOU



TALK ABOUT....

WEATHER



TALK ABOUT....

**YOUR FAVOURITE
ANIMAL(S)**



TALK ABOUT....

**YOUR
FAVOURITE
MEAL (FOODS)**



TALK ABOUT....

**YOUR WIFE/YOUR
HUSBAND/YOUR
BEST FRIEND**



TALK ABOUT....

YOUR CAR



Minute Talk

15 minutes

TALK ABOUT....

DREAM VACATION



TALK ABOUT....

DREAM HOUSE



TALK ABOUT....

WORST NIGHTMARE



TALK ABOUT....

FAVOURITE CELEBRITY or FAMOUS PERSON

TALK ABOUT....

YOUR FAVOURITE SINGER

TALK ABOUT....

YOUR FAVOURITE TV SHOW



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TALK ABOUT....

ANY TOPIC(?)

TALK ABOUT....

ANY TOPIC(?)

TALK ABOUT....

CANADA

TALK ABOUT....

**YOUR HOME
COUNTRY**

TALK ABOUT....

**YOUR FAVOURITE
DRINK**

TALK ABOUT....

**YOUR
FAVOURITE
PERSON**

TALK ABOUT....

**YOUR
FAVOURITE
TEACHER**

TALK ABOUT....

BEST PARTY



Minute Talk

15 minutes

TALK ABOUT....

WORST PARTY



TALK ABOUT....

YOUR BEST HOLIDAY

TALK ABOUT....

YOUR FAVOURITE RESTAURANT

TALK ABOUT....

BEST DREAM



TALK ABOUT....

GROCERY SHOPPING



TALK ABOUT....

FAVOURITE SPORT(S)





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TALK ABOUT....

**YOUR
FUTURE**

TALK ABOUT....

**DAILY
ACTIVITIES**

TALK ABOUT....

**YOUR
FAVOURITE
COLOUR**

TALK ABOUT....

**FAVOURITE
MOVIE**

TALK ABOUT....

**YOUR
WORK OR VOLUNTEER
EXPERIENCE**

TALK ABOUT....

**YOUR
FAMILY**

