

# I am you

## Introduction

This activity is designed to develop students' abilities to empathise. It does this by asking them to put themselves into the shoes of another student in the class and write about that person's preferences, likes and dislikes.



The activity can easily be adapted for lower or higher-level classes by changing the complexity of the statements.

**Webinar time reference:** 27:00 – 29:46

**Level:** Any age A2+

**Time:** 15 – 30 minutes

**Aim:** To help students get to know each other better and to practice empathy.

## Preparation:

- Make copies of the worksheet for each student, or give them a digital copy.

## Procedure

- Tell the students they are going to try to imagine they are a different person.
- Give them the name of another student in the class.
- Now give the students a copy of the activity sheet.
- Tell them to imagine they are the other person and complete the sheet.

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- They should do this in silence.
- Once they have completed the sheet, put the students into pairs and ask them to tell the other person what they put, and ask them what the real answer should be.
- Once the students have finished, ask them to share something they learned about their partner.
- If they enjoy this, they can repeat it with another partner, or they can complete the sentences about you and then find out more about you.

### Materials:

#### I am you

I like the colour... because ...  
My favourite time of the day is ...  
When I first started school, I used to ...  
I enjoy ...  
I really dislike ...  
The music I like best is ...  
I sometimes worry about ...  
My biggest fear is ...  
My ambition is ...  
I like people who ...  
People like me because ...

### Additional resources

#### Teacher educator self-awareness: Empathy

- In this article, Tessa Woodward explores the idea of empathy as a feature of self-awareness, what it is and why it is important in our work.

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/teacher-educator-self-awareness-empathy>

### **Picture-books to spark empathy and social justice actions**

- Watch a recording of this webinar with David Valente looking at how picture-books can encourage empathy and social justice with young learners.

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/picturebooks-spark-empathy-and-social-justice-actions>

### **10 Activities to develop students' empathy through visual narrative**

- In this article, Nik Peachey shares a few simple activities that we can use with visual narrative to encourage students to put themselves into the lives, minds and feelings of others and to see beyond the surface appearance.

<https://peacheypublications.com/10-activities-to-develop-students-empathy-through-visual-narrative>