Quotes

Introduction

This activity is designed to encourage students to share their views about a topic. It is based on quotes and memes and can be used with a range of different topics. You can use it as a quick warmer or as a longer activity.

The activity can be used both in the remote and physical classroom. We have provided some example quotes, but you can easily replace these with ones more suitable for your students.


Level: B1 + Secondary

Time: 15 – 20 minutes

Aim: To encourage students to share their views and get to know each other better.

Preparation:

- Collect 6 -10 images, quotes or memes.
- Put them onto a single slide or document.
- We have included some samples for you to try in the materials section.

Procedure

- Show students the slide with the images/memes/quotes on.
- Ask the students to choose one that they feel has relevance for their life.
Choose one yourself and give students an explanation of why you chose it and why it appeals to you.

Now ask the students to explain which image they chose and why they chose it. The students can work in groups to do this, or you can do it as a class.

You can repeat the process with other images or quotes.

Ask the students what they discovered about some of the people in their group.

**Materials:**

**Quotes**

- To the world you may be just one person, but to one person you may be the world.
  
  **DR. SEUSS**

- Speak your mind, even if your voice shakes.
  
  **MAGGIE KUHN**

- Life is not a problem to be solved, a reality to be experienced.
  
  Søren Kierkegaard

- Failure is not the opposite of success, it is part of success.

- **ALL WE HAVE IS NOW.**

- “Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it.”

**Additional resources**

**Using poems, quotations and proverbs**

- Learning a language does not just mean saying something new. It also helps to practise saying words and sounds.

Fun discussion of controversial topics - the 'Tap-In Debate'

- The 'Tap-In Debate' is a fun way for students to discuss controversial topics. It is excellent for speaking and listening practice.

[https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/fun-discussion-controversial-topics-tap-debate](https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/fun-discussion-controversial-topics-tap-debate)

ARM exercises - speaking activity to wake up a sleepy class

- This is a great way to start a lesson with a free-speaking activity. I call it ‘ARM exercises’ which is simply short for Accept, Reject or Modify statements.

[https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/arm-exercises-speaking-activity-wake-sleepy-class](https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/arm-exercises-speaking-activity-wake-sleepy-class)

Classroom issues

- Learners have a lot of ideas about how they should learn a language, and it is important to encourage them to discuss these and to communicate them to the teacher.

[https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/classroom-issues](https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/classroom-issues)

Rachael Roberts - Breaking the ice

- There is some truth in the idea that many students find it difficult to take the risk of expressing themselves in a foreign language. They can feel shy, or embarrassed. For this reason, activities at the start of a new course, often called icebreakers, are much more than just a way to have some fun and create a nice atmosphere. They can really help you to promote a level of trust and openness in the class, which will encourage students to take more risks with language and with what they are willing to contribute.