

Breaking the ice

Warm up

Circle game

You will need a soft ball for this game. Ask the class to stand in a circle. Tell students that they are going to ask and answer questions following a simple rule that you will give them, for example: 'All questions must begin with *What ...?*'

The person with the ball must think of a question beginning with *What ...?*; choose a person in the circle; say that person's name; throw the ball to them; ask the question; listen to the answer and repeat it, for example:

Cristina. What did you have for breakfast?

I had coffee with milk and a brioche.

OK, you had coffee with milk and a brioche.

This goes on, round the circle, until you change the rule. Every time you want to change the rule, it's a good idea to get the ball back and give the students your own example.

Here are some suggested rules to impose:

- questions must use the **past tense**
- questions must begin with **Why ...?**
- questions must be about **family/hobbies/school**, etc.
- questions must be **negative**, e.g. *Why didn't you throw the ball to Petra?*
- questions must consist of **four words** only.

Main activities

Students do some of these activities alone and the others in pairs or small groups.

1 Give out the activity sheets.

Divide the class into pairs or groups and assign one picture to each pair or group. They must think of as many questions as they can that they could ask the person or people in their picture. Remind them that their questions must begin with the words in the list. Emphasise that the questions should refer to the 'content' of the picture, e.g. *When is your birthday?* is not a suitable question for any of them.

Give a time limit for preparation (e.g. 3 minutes).

Ask one student in each pair or group to stand up and read out the questions they have for the person in their picture.

Award one point for each grammatically correct question; give a bonus point for an original and imaginative question.

2 Explain that the sentences contain fairly typical mistakes, which they should try hard to avoid!

▶▶ Play the recording twice so students can check their answers and practise saying the questions.

Tapescript and answers

- 1 What's your name?
- 2 Where **do** you come from?
- 3 How **old are** you?
- 4 Are you **a** student?
- 5 What school do you go **to**?
- 6 Can you spell that, please?
- 7 How long **have you been learning** English?
- 8 Do you enjoy **learning** English?
- 9 How many English lessons **do you have** a week?
- 10 **Have you got** any brothers or sisters?
- 11 Do you live in **a** house or **a** flat?
- 12 What **do** you do in your free time?

3 Monitor students' answers to the questions.

4 ▶▶ Tell students there are various possible ways of wording some of the questions, and the questions they will hear on the recording are a model. Go through their answers checking any differences in wording.

Tapescript and answers

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 What's your name? | Belinda. |
| 2 And what's your surname? | Sherman. |
| 3 How do you spell that? | It's S-H-E-R-M-A-N. |
| 4 Where are you from? | I'm from Wales. |
| 5 Whereabouts in Wales? | Swansea, in the south of the country. |
| 6 How old are you, Belinda? | 15. |
| 7 Where do you go to school? | Norbrook High School. |
| 8 Could you spell that, please? | Yes, it's N-O-R-B-R-O-O-K. |
| 9 What's your favourite subject at school? | I like maths and science, but I suppose my favourite subject is ICT. |
| 10 What does ICT stand for? | Information and Communications Technology. |
| 11 What do you like doing in your free time? | I like going out with friends. I watch films sometimes, and I do karate twice a week. |
| 12 And how long have you been doing karate? | Since I was 12 ... so, for three years. |

5 ▶▶ You may need to pause the recording to give students time to note down the differences between the text and the recording. See page 134 for the Tapescript. You may want to give out photocopies of the Tapescript when you check the answers. Perhaps also explain *Design and Technology (DT)* – designing and making products and learning about manufacturing processes.

Answers

- 1 Davidson 2 Inverness 3 Ireland 4 Murrayfield
5 DT 6 Design and Technology 7 16 8 two sisters
9 older 10 computer games 11 fishing

6 Monitor students' questions and answers.

Follow up

Ask students to write a parallel description of themselves.

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1 Look at one of these pictures. Imagine that you meet the character in the picture. What questions could you ask the person or people?

Think of as many questions as you can. They must begin with these words:

What Where When Who Why How long How often

2 Each of these questions is incorrect. Can you find the mistakes and write the correct version? Look at the examples first.

- 1 What your name? What's your name?
- 2 Where are you come from? Where do you come from?
- 3 What age have you?
- 4 Are you student?
- 5 What school do you go?
- 6 Can you to spell that, please?
- 7 How long are you learn English?
- 8 Do you enjoy to learn English?
- 9 How many English lessons have you a week?
- 10 Do you have got any brothers or sisters?
- 11 Do you live in the house or the flat?
- 12 What you do in your free time?

▶▶ Listen to the recording and check your answers.

Listen to the questions again and repeat them.

3 Work in pairs. Practise asking and answering the questions in exercise 2. When you are ready, practise again, without looking at the questions. Walk around the classroom repeating the questions and answers with different partners.

4 Here are a girl's answers to questions in an interview. Write the interviewer's questions on the left-hand side.

- 1What's your name?..... Belinda.
- 2 Sherman.
- 3 It's S-H-E-R-M-A-N.
- 4 I'm from Wales.

5 Swansea, in the south of the country.

6 15.

7 Norbrook High School.

8 Yes, it's N-O-R-B-R-O-O-K.

9 I like maths and science, but I suppose my favourite subject is ICT.

10 Information and Communications Technology.

11 I like going out with friends. I watch films sometimes, and I do karate twice a week.

12 Since I was 12 ... so, for three years.

▶▶ Now listen to the recording and check your answers.

5 ▶▶ You will hear another, similar conversation. First read the text below and then listen to the recording. There are 11 differences between the text and the recording. Note down the differences on the text. (The first one is done for you.)

Callum 1 ^{Davidson} ~~Davidson~~ lives in 2 Edinburgh, in Scotland, but he was born in 3 England. He is a student at 4 Craigmuir Academy. His favourite subject is 5 PE, which stands for 6 Physical Education. Callum is 7 15 years old. He's got 8 one sister and one brother, who are 9 younger than him. In his free time he enjoys playing 10 football and some weekends he goes 11 cycling.

6 Work in pairs. Taking it in turns to play the interviewer, ask and answer personal information questions like those in exercise 4.

EXAM PART
Speaking Part 1

EXAM SKILLS
Giving information
of a factual,
personal kind

Answering
questions about
the present and
the past

Spelling

TOPIC
Personal
information:
home, family

Schools and
school subjects

TIME
40 minutes

KEY LANGUAGE
Common errors

Question forms

PREPARATION
One photocopy of
the activity page for
each student

A soft ball for the
Warm up game

Optional: photocopies
of the Tapescript for
exercise 5 (see page 134)