

60 Half a crossword

Lower-Intermediate

In this activity, the students work in two groups A and B. Each group has an incomplete crossword. By asking for and miming definitions, they try to fill in the missing words.

Method

- 1 Copy the crossword on page 85 (Group A) and on page 86 (Group B).
- 2 Divide the class into A and B groups of 2-3 students per group. They sit facing each other. Give each group a copy of the crossword and, before starting, allow them time to check through the words they will have to mime.

NOTE: On no account must they let the other group see their crossword!

- 3 Explain that they have to take it in turns to ask for a word that is missing from their crossword. They simply ask *What's 1 Down? What's 4 Across?* etc. The other group now have to try to mime the word as best they can. They are not allowed to speak other than make noises, e.g. the grunting of a pig. (Anyone in the group can mime.)
- 4 Set a definite time-limit and stop the students at the end of it whether they have finished or not.
- 5 They can now compare their crosswords and check any words they didn't fill in.
- 6 You can follow up by asking the groups to demonstrate how they mimed one or two of the more difficult words.

61 Tongue-twisters

Lower-Intermediate

A lot of fun can be had from trying to read out tongue-twisters. This is a group contest based on tongue-twisters.

Method

- 1 Copy and cut out the tongue twister cards on page 87 - one set for each group.
- 2 The tongue-twister cards are shuffled and placed face down on the table. One player starts. S(he) picks up the top card and tries to say it three times as quickly as possible. If the others think s(he) has said it well (s)he keeps the card. If not, the person on his/her right has a go. If successful s(he) keeps the card. If not play proceeds until everyone in the group has tried. If no one is successful at the end, the card is discarded and the next one turned up.
- 3 Play continues in this manner. Set a time-limit (approx. 15 minutes).
- 4 The person with the most cards at the end wins.

Variation

It can also be played as a team game, with three students acting as judges.

- 1 Divide the class into four teams (6 students per team). Have four copies of the cards, arranged on the table in the same order.

- 2 One person from each team comes out to the front. They are all given the same tongue-twister and allowed 1 minute to look at it before starting. Then they take it in turns to read out their tongue-twister three times, after which the three judges say who said it best. (If the judges cannot agree, the teacher will have to arbitrate.) The winner gets 10 points.
- 3 The team with the highest points at the end of 6 rounds wins.

(NOTE: If the class is larger or smaller, adjust the team sizes and number of rounds accordingly.)

62 Test your logic

Lower-Intermediate and above

This is an activity for pairs which tests how logically the students can think.

Method

- 1 Copy the handout on page 88 - one copy per pair.
- 2 The students read through the questions and write down their answers. Set a time-limit of 15-20 minutes.
- 3 Check orally by asking different pairs in turn for their answers.

Key:

1 *Because he/she isn't dead.* 2 *All of them.* 3 *11. The daughter is each son's sister.* 4 *You don't bury survivors as they aren't dead.* 5 *(c) her daughter.* 6 *It was still Mount Everest.* 7 *The match.* 8 *Nine.* 9 *16, 515.* 10 *There are no stairs in a bungalow (suggested answer).* 11 *Three.* 12 *No one. Peacocks (males) can't lay eggs.* 13 *a chair, a bed, a toothbrush.* 14 *Once.* 15 *It was still daylight.* 16 *Neither. 9 + 7 = 16.* 17 *Dead.*

63 Complete the crossword

Lower-Intermediate

This is a crossword activity for pairs where the missing words in three jokes form the clues for the crossword.

Method

- 1 Copy the handout on page 89 - one copy per pair.
- 2 Explain what the students have to do. If you like, do the first example with them. Set a time-limit, e.g. 20 minutes.
- 3 Check orally by reading through the jokes and pausing before each missing word.

Key:

Across

3 *and*, 5 *more*, 6 *anything*, 8 *should*, 11 *everything*, 12 *left*, 16 *second*, 18 *arrived*, 19 *time*, 20 *who*, 21 *still*, 22 *having*

Down

1 *they*, 2 *until*, 4 *said*, 5 *moment*, 7 *times*, 9 *holiday*, 10 *there*, 13 *when*, 14 *asked*, 15 *brought*, 17 *course*, 19 *talk*, 20 *went*