

Activity Type

Speaking Game: writing true or false sentences, story telling, asking questions, guessing (group and pair work)

Focus

Modal verbs of ability

Expressions with *be able to*

Aim

To play a true or false game to practice modal verbs of ability and expressions with *be able to*.

Preparation

Make one copy of the two worksheets for each pair of students.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

40 minutes

Introduction

In this *be able to* activity, students play a true or false game to practice modal verbs of ability and expressions with *be able to*.

Procedure

Demonstrate the activity by telling the class that you are going to tell them about an ability you have.

The student's task is to find out if you are telling the truth or lying (bluffing).

Tell the students something true or false that you do really well, e.g. 'I can swim really well'. Then, tell a brief personal story that shows how great you are at that ability.

Encourage the students to ask follow-up questions to help them decide if you are telling the truth or bluffing. Students then make their guess and you reveal the answer.

Explain that the students are going to play a similar game to practice modal verbs of ability and expressions with *be able to*.

Divide the class into two groups (A and B).

Give each student a corresponding worksheet.

Students then complete the worksheet with true or false information about their abilities as indicated.

Students also think of a brief personal story about each ability to tell a partner.

Next, students pair up with someone from the other group.

Tell the students not to show their worksheet to their partner.

Students then take it in turns to talk about an ability and tell a story.

Their partner's task is to listen and ask follow-up questions to help them decide if the student is telling the truth or bluffing.

Their partner then makes their guess and the student reveals the answer. Students score one point for each correct guess.

The student with the most points at the end of the game wins.

Afterwards, students report back to the class on the best bluffs.

Student A

A. Write true or false information about your abilities as indicated. Also, think of a brief true or false personal story about each ability to tell your partner.

1. Something you've always been able to do. (bluff)

.....

2. Something you can't do very well. (true)

.....

3. Something you'd love to be able to do. (true)

.....

4. Something you've never been able to do. (bluff)

.....

5. Something you are worried about not being able to do in the future. (bluff)

.....

6. Something you weren't able to do yesterday. (bluff)

.....

7. Something you want to be able to do in the future. (true)

.....

8. Something you won't be able to do next year. (true)

.....

9. Something you learned to do when you were younger but can't do now. (bluff)

.....

10. Something you wish you were able to do. (true)

.....

B. Now, take it in turns to listen to your partner talk about an ability. Ask follow-up questions to help you decide if your partner is telling the truth or bluffing. Then, make your guess.

Student B

A. Write true or false information about your abilities as indicated. Also, think of a brief true or false personal story about each ability to tell your partner.

1. Something you can do really well. (true)

.....

2. Something you wish you were able to do. (bluff)

.....

3. Something you will be able to do next year. (bluff)

.....

4. Something you learned to do when you were a teenager. (true)

.....

5. Something you won't be able to do today but can do tomorrow. (true)

.....

6. Something you are sometimes able to do. (bluff)

.....

7. Something you are able to do but not very well. (true)

.....

8. Something you'd hate to be able to do. (bluff)

.....

9. Something you've never been able to do. (true)

.....

10. Something you will be able to do today. (bluff)

.....

B. Now, take it in turns to listen to your partner talk about an ability. Ask follow-up questions to help you decide if your partner is telling the truth or bluffing. Then, make your guess.